



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-Rabbuh: PLO Ready To Sign Accord With Israel

JN1808174493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] The PLO is prepared to bear the responsibility for a difficult decision to establish peace with Israel. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, who said this, added that the Palestinian leadership is completely confident that it is capable of signing a peace accord based on clear grounds, as he put it. 'Abd-Rabbuh said the Palestinian leadership is also prepared to hold the historic meeting between its leaders and the leaders of Israel.

'Abd-al-Shafi Expects Israeli Response to Moves

TA1808144693 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Aug 93 pp 1, 15

[Text] Gaza, Jerusalem—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has said that yesterday's statements by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Salih Ra'fat on including some members of the negotiating delegation in the Palestinian Central and National Councils, might be a challenge to Israel to declare its position on direct negotiations with the PLO, especially after recent meetings between PLO officials and ministers in Yitzhaq Rabin's government.

The chief Palestinian negotiator said adopting such a decision is very simple, but implementation requires Israeli consent. He noted that after the West Bank's and Gaza Strip's occupation by Israel, members in the Palestine National Council (PNC) had received invitations to attend the first PNC session but the Israeli authorities summoned them and prevented their departure.

The chief Palestinian negotiator added that the Israeli authorities can still prohibit appointed members from going abroad even if they are part of the delegation. Consequently, the new Palestinian approach will be foisted entirely. 'Abd-al-Shafi expressed the belief that the Israeli Government will determine its position on these statements in the near future.

'Arafat-EC Meeting on Gaza-Jericho First Reported

TA1908081693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Aug 93 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Hemi Shalev]

[Text] PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat has recently told a group of EC officials that the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First idea would constitute "a genuine breakthrough and the first manifestation of disengagement and independence."

A report on the meeting, which was received in Jerusalem, indicates that 'Arafat said he would consent not to

make an official announcement about Gaza-Jericho independence during the first two years of the plan's implementation. 'Arafat made these remarks at a meeting in Tunis with senior Foreign Ministry officials from the EC troika, who are members of a special coordination team established by the EC to monitor the political process.

Officials in Jerusalem believe that the meeting was held to promote Europe's objective of restoring close ties with the Arabs in a bid to play a more active role in the peace process and to assist the process by influencing Arab stands. The EC president is evidently holding contacts with the Arab League toward resuming the European-Arab dialogue, which was discontinued after the Gulf war.

'Arafat told the EC officials that he would acknowledge Israel's security needs. He also voiced his consent to the deployment of a multinational, rather than a UN, force that would supervise the disengagement in the territories. 'Arafat confirmed that the Palestinians would report to the peace talks scheduled to resume in Washington at the end of the month.

'Arafat noted the urgent need for some \$30 to 40 million for the territories. He said the PLO would submit its plan for a European aid fund for the territories to the EC leaders by the end of the week.

On the same occasion, 'Arafat rejected an Israeli idea according to which Israel and Egypt would jointly petition the World Bank for allocations that would be transferred through them to the territories. Israel had raised this proposal since only countries may receive funds under the World Bank's regulations.

'Arafat's remarks concerning the Gaza and Jericho First idea and his reservations about early empowerment reflect the disparity between the approach to these two issues of the PLO leadership and of the territories leadership. Jerusalem elements believe that the Gaza First concept is the PLO's way of taking hold of the territories, and the organization fears that early empowerment would bolster the territories leadership's standing.

There still seems to be a considerable gap between the Tunis and Jerusalem interpretations of the Gaza First proposal. While 'Arafat has been speaking of attaining a situation only a formal declaration away from independence, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee this week that the proposal is "less than autonomy" and a mere "experimental farm."

[Writing on page 2 of Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 19 August, Avner Regev and Pinhas Inbari report: "The U.S. opposition to the Gaza and Jericho First idea promotes the stand of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who sees the early transfer of administrative powers to the territories delegation as the way to promote the political talks due to resume in Washington at the end of August."

["Senior Jerusalem officials who reported this added that the PLO-Tunis has been preventing progress at talks which dealt with achieving early empowerment even without a definite agreement. The sources assume that the PLO position stems from its fear of losing its authority with the territories population.

["The officials added that contrary to the Gaza and Jericho First idea, which had been raised at various forums by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, the prime minister instructed the Israeli delegates to the talks to discuss early empowerment while ignoring almost entirely all other constantly proposed ideas."]

'Ashrawi Briefs Diplomats

TA1808175193 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
18 Aug 93 p 2

[By Zaki Abu-al-Halawah]

[Text] Jerusalem—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the Palestinian delegation's spokesperson, held several intensive meetings yesterday at the Orient House. Participants included members of diplomatic missions, members of the EC, and officials of various embassies. 'Ashrawi also held a private meeting with Russian officials.

Dr. 'Ashrawi told AL-QUDS that during the various meetings matters were clarified, particularly regarding Palestinian action and how the previous situation was overcome. She added: Moreover, discussion was held over the PLO's role and the political dimensions of the negotiating process.

At the meetings, Dr. 'Ashrawi emphasized the need to hold a direct dialogue with the PLO, to lift the economic siege imposed on the Palestinian leadership, and to ease the suffering of Palestinians, especially prisoners in Israeli jails. As an example, she mentioned the dire situation of detainees in Hebron prison.

Furthermore, a review was conducted of the negotiating process and the obstacles, stemming from Israeli intransigence, that prevent progress in the negotiations.

Dr. 'Ashrawi explained to the foreign delegations that a responsibility falls on the shoulders of the other parties taking part in the peace process, which dictates that they restrain Israel from its practices in the occupied territories.

Dr. 'Ashrawi said: The issue of Israeli rumors and campaigns against the Palestinian delegation and the PLO leadership was discussed. We explained that these events are purely a blatant fabrication and the whole thing was blown out of proportion. We stressed that what took place recently over the issue of resignations was a purely internal affair that was addressed with a great deal of responsibility. The issue of Jerusalem and its status, geographical jurisdiction, and legislation were raised at the meetings.

It is worth noting that after each round of negotiations, the Palestinian delegation briefs diplomatic missions and foreign consuls about the official Palestinian position on that round.

Sha'th Blames U.S. for Israel's Nonrecognition of PLO

PM1808120693 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 16 Aug 93 p 4

[Report on interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, chief political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] A prominent Palestinian politician has held the United States responsible for Israel's nonrecognition, so far, of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people even though the whole world has recognized it.

In an interview with AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, chief political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, said that the United States bears a significant part of the responsibility for the fact that Israel still has not recognized the PLO.

Sha'th attributed that U.S. position to Washington's opposition to any radical change in the rules of the Madrid conference on the Middle East because it believes that continuation of the negotiations with the Palestinians from inside the occupied territory would guarantee continuation of what has been going on so far.

President 'Arafat's adviser stressed that the Madrid conference rules were "invented" not by former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir but by the Washington Near East Institute and a document prepared at the time by people who are now in positions of responsibility in the United States. He was referring to Dennis Ross, Martin Indyk, and others.

Sha'th believes that the United States has been able, by various means, to give the parties concerned the impression that the Madrid conference rules were in line with what Shamir had dictated but in reality they were clearly in line with the American model devised by the team supervising the Arab-Israeli negotiations, approximately two years before the start of the peace process.

On the possibility of Yitzhaq Rabin's government recognizing the PLO, the Palestinian official believes that two thirds of the Israeli ministers would approve a move to recognize the PLO and then negotiate directly with it because in their view, according to Sha'th, that would make peace between Israel and the Palestinian people possible.

Although Rabin is still reluctant, Sha'th believes that the recognition might take place in stages through escalation of the dialogue in various forms which would generate greater Israeli willingness and make the Americans themselves more conscious of the need to deal with the PLO.

He believes that could be done through acceptance of some members of the Palestinian leadership in the Palestinian negotiating delegation. He mentioned the steps taken in the U.S. dialogue with the PRC beginning with table tennis matches between American and Chinese teams and on to meetings at the U.S. embassy in the Polish capital Warsaw and ending with full recognition and exchange of diplomatic representation, and there are other examples in contemporary history.

'Arafat's political adviser does not believe that a particular time limit could be set for that. He said it would be difficult to predict when it would happen but it would not be long before that occurs. He pointed out that, as far as the Palestinian question is concerned, there were times when the situation appeared ripe for taking bigger steps but international, Arab, and regional changes delayed such steps.

He stressed that a solution was imperative and that Israeli recognition of the PLO was a necessary and important step toward more success in the negotiation process and toward a just peace, and was also a necessary step for the Israeli Government to demonstrate to the Israelis the need to make the necessary concessions for peace.

Sha'th says that "the whole world has recognized the PLO, including the United States." He was referring to the bilateral dialogue held between the two sides on political grounds and not on security, economic, or informational grounds.

The Palestinian official said that the expected Israeli recognition would mark the beginning of the end of the Israeli occupation and the beginning of the end of the absence of the Palestinian people abroad. He attributed the Israeli hesitation to fear of recognizing the Palestinians in the occupied territory and in the diaspora and of consequently having to negotiate with their representatives. He said that the issue is not about the current delegation and whether or not it represented the PLO. Once Israel recognizes the delegation as that of the PLO, he said, the Palestinian leadership would keep that delegation as it is now.

Recent Crisis in PLO Seen as Part of Larger Problem

JN1808134993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
18 Aug pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Lamis K. Anduni]

[Text] The short-lived crisis over the resignations of three prominent Palestinian negotiators, which was swiftly contained by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership last week, has triggered a serious debate over the Palestinian negotiating strategy—or, in the view of many, the lack of it—towards the Middle East peace process.

In the opinion of many analysts, PLO officials and even delegation members, the crisis was reduced to a power struggle that overshadowed political differences over

what is viewed as "consecutive concessions by the leadership" and political and organisational reforms in the movement.

In fact, reports from the Israeli-occupied territories suggest that political differences and debate have intensified inside the circles of the leadership, particularly within the delegation members, especially after the revelations that Faysal al-Husayni had prior knowledge about, or took part in, the formulation of the Palestinian response to the American proposal for Palestinian self-rule. This supposedly was the main reason that prompted Mr. al-Husayni and two of his colleagues, Hanan 'Ashrawi and Sa'ib 'Urayqat, to submit their resignations.

The disclosure of Mr. al-Husayni's knowledge of the controversial response, was made by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) at last week's meeting between the leadership and a number of delegation's members in Tunis, according to PLO officials and Palestinian negotiators.

Many members of the Palestinian delegation, according to different sources in Amman, Tunis and the occupied territories, were angered by the revelations particularly that it confirmed previous doubts that the majority of the negotiators are "kept in the dark" about what the leadership "is up to."

Statements made by some negotiators, especially supporters of the mainstream Fatah faction, indicate that the whole episode has sharpened the polarisation inside the delegation into two camps led by Mr. al-Husayni and chief negotiator Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi.

The focus of political differences between the two leaders, which were manifested in many public statements over the last four months, now seems to be on whether to accept or reject the Israeli proposal of early empowerment, Palestinian officials say.

But the issue is further complicated by the fact that after the Israeli approval of Mr. al-Husayni as member of the negotiating team the Palestinian delegation practically has two heads—Mr. al-Husayni and Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi—with two different political lines.

In interviews with Israel Television Sunday [15 August] some Palestinian negotiators implied deep differences with Mr. al-Husayni. "If I were (Yasir) 'Arafat I would dissolve the delegation and form a new one under the leadership of Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi," Furayh Abu-Middyan, who is a supporter of Fatah, told Israel Television. It was a sign that the crisis is far from over in spite of the leadership's decision to appoint a number of negotiators including Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi and Mr. al-Husayni in the senior steering committee in the PLO that is supposed to draft negotiating strategies.

The appointments, which in theory yielded a bigger say to the delegation in the decision-making process, were doubtlessly a successful tactic by the PLO leadership to

turn the crisis into its favour by asserting its role and challenging both the U.S. and Israel to come to terms with the organisation as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Yet, despite the importance of asserting the PLO role in the peace process, Palestinian supporters and opponents of the ongoing talks with Israel alike say there are serious fears that such gains could prove meaningless if the leadership accepts substantive concessions—as it is argued by many inside and outside the delegation and the organisation itself.

The immediate concern for many Palestinian negotiators, according to interviews and press reports from the occupied territories, seems to be that the Tunis meeting has not altered the *de facto* Palestinian acceptance of some elements in the American proposal in contradiction with the official decision to formulate a Palestinian response based on international resolutions and laws.

Although the PLO has not accepted the American proposals in full, and instead presented a paper including many modifications and new ideas, the fact that the Palestinian response is largely based on the American proposal could undermine Palestinian efforts to maintain United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338 [as] the basis of all the phases of the negotiating process.

The American proposal, which was suggested as a common ground between the Israelis and the Palestinians to start negotiations, states that any agreement between the two sides will constitute the implementation of Resolution 242 and insists that the status of East Jerusalem be deferred to the final stage of the negotiations.

The major Palestinian reservation over the American paper emanates from fear that the paper could replace the United Nations resolutions, international law and even the American letters of assurances, according to which the parties involved agreed to participate in the current talks, as the term of reference for all the stages of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

These fears were further confirmed when American officials bluntly told the Palestinians that neither 242 nor the letters of assurances were enforceable.

Initially the PLO leadership publicly rejected to deal with the American proposal. But, behind the scenes, the leadership, or at least some members of it, had immediately started negotiations through British and Egyptian channels to find a common ground between the American proposal and the Palestinian position.

According to interviews with a number of senior Palestinian officials—both supporters and opponents of the peace process—the chief PLO coordinator of the peace process, Dr. Nabil Sha'ih, and Mr. al-Husayni met with British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd in London immediately after the tenth round of talks.

During that meeting Mr. Hurd suggested that the Palestinians deal with the American paper by presenting modifications instead of an outright rejection of the proposal.

The sources told the JORDAN TIMES that specific ideas were discussed with Mr. Hurd, which later appeared in the Palestinian response. "The first draft was based on that discussion with Hurd," said one PLO official.

Later on Mr. al-Husayni flew back to Washington and met with American officials. Accounts about the position that Mr. al-Husayni conveyed, allegedly to Mr. Christopher, are ambiguous.

Some officials say that Mr. al-Husayni had actually started negotiating the American proposal with the Americans shortly after the London talks, others, including other negotiators, maintain that he clearly told the U.S. officials that the leadership did not consider the American paper to constitute an adequate basis for the negotiations.

The fundamental points in the officials draft was finally formulated in Cairo by Mr. 'Abbas and Dr. Sha'ih. Some PLO officials maintain that Egyptian officials, including Usamah al-Baz and 'Amr Musa, also took part in drafting the document.

It was after formulating the draft that the PLO officials showed it to Mr. al-Husayni who was visiting Cairo. Some PLO officials claim that Mr. al-Husayni was given a copy and asked to consult with his colleagues over it. The revelations gave way to speculation bordering on accusations that Mr. al-Husayni deliberately did not show the document to his colleagues. The significance of this incident is that it had created a feeling among the delegation that the "individualistic pattern" in the PLO leadership was being emulated in the delegation.

But perhaps the most significant implication of the episode, judging by public statements of a number of negotiators, is that it revealed that most of the delegation members have strong reservations, if not total opposition, to the current Palestinian policy and that differences could develop into an outright rift within the delegation.

Yet despite their political opposition, the majority of the delegation members refused to join Mr. al-Husayni, Dr. 'Ashrawi and Dr. 'Urayqat in submitting a collective resignation mainly because they viewed the move as part of a power game and did not believe that there were serious, if any, differences, between the leadership and Mr. al-Husayni.

Regardless of the reasons why Mr. al-Husayni wanted to resign, both Dr. 'Ashrawi and Dr. 'Urayqat, according to the arguments they put forward at the Tunis meeting, expressed serious concerns (apparently shared by all of the negotiators) about being used as a tool to make

unpopular concessions and at the same time not even taking part in decision-making.

Dr. 'Ashrawi challenged the PLO leadership to lay down the PLO strategy to the delegation and strongly protested against the organisation's using other channels, mainly Egypt, to communicate and negotiate with the U.S. over the head of the delegation.

Some PLO officials believe that some leading members of the delegation are alarmed by prospects of direct negotiations between Israel and the PLO. But even if the delegation's reservations about the PLO's constant attempts to negotiate with the U.S. through Egypt do, to certain extent, reflect a power struggle, there is wide discontent within the PLO and the delegation against the leadership's growing reliance on consultations with Cairo which usually argues in favour of U.S. policies.

It is unclear how far the debate, which seems to be more serious and sharper in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, will influence the Palestinian negotiating position.

But most Palestinian officials and analysts expect the opposition from inside the delegation and outside to focus on making sure that the Palestinians are not dragged into accepting the Israeli-inspired early empowerment plan, which involves transfer of functions and does not acknowledge Palestinian territorial jurisdiction.

Khatib interviewed on Citeh

JN1908095193 Amman THE STAR in English
19-25 Aug 93 p 3

["Excerpts" of an interview with Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the delegation to peace talks, by THE STAR reporters Marwan al-Asmar and Ra'id al-'Abid in Amman "last week"]

[Text] [THE STAR] What really happened in Tunis, and how was the crisis resolved?

[Al-Khatib] What happened was that when the leadership in Tunis sent a document submitted by the Palestinian delegation to the American Secretary of State, members of the delegation had certain remarks about this document and about the fact that it was said to be submitted without any consultation with the delegation. But as a result of this split the delegation decided to resign and then the leadership called for a meeting in order to discuss this crisis. We went (to Tunis) for three days and we had several meetings and the issue of the resignation was not the only or the main issue.

The resigning members of the delegations were given the opportunity to put their points. There were two kinds of complaints by them. The first, political, concerning this document, the second, organizational, and it deals mainly with the need to raise consultations between Tunis and the Occupied Territories. At the end there was a decision to establish a (joint) committee. This solution was seen as satisfactory. My personal point of view is

that this crisis is only a symptom of much more dangerous difficulties within the Palestinian political structure. There has been several symptoms; one is the statements of Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, (another) is the suspension of our participation, there are three to four members of the delegation who decided to suspend their participation, I'm one of them. And the resignations are the last symptom. But I guess that if the fundamental problem is not solved, we will continue to witness other symptoms in the future.

[THE STAR] So what is the problem?

[Al-Khatib] The problem in my view is the political system, the Palestinian decisionmaking system, inherited from a period when the Palestinian leadership outside was the body that is responsible for taking the decisions on behalf of the Palestinians. Recently there have been some developments that require some changes and modifications and reforms in this political system. One development is the Intifadah that gave political weight to the Palestinians inside. Another is the peace process in which Palestinians from the inside are mainly negotiating...the decisionmaking process (needs) to absorb and incorporate the different sectors of Palestinians inside and outside... This can be solved by either expanding the official bodies of the PLO to include Palestinians from the inside or establish official bodies in the Occupied Territories who will have the right to be consulted and to give their input...

[THE STAR] How are decisions made now, is it a one way street...

[Al-Khatib] It's not always a one way street. It varies according to the situation. In many cases, if not most of the cases, they have meetings in Tunis that includes most of delegates and most of the leadership and things are discussed collectively there. But there isn't any system that legitimizes officially the role of the delegation or the inside Palestinians in the decisionmaking process.

[THE STAR] Is this why Mr. Faysal al-Husayni was angry when he got the PLO's answer to the American paper?

[Al-Khatib] I cannot explain this anger by political justifications because the modifications that were submitted by al-Husayni to the leadership about this document were very marginal and mainly linguistic remarks. So it is not a matter of political differences over this document but rather it was over the way decisions are made and the way consultations are made.

[THE STAR] How do you feel psychologically about negotiating with your enemy of more than 40 years...?

[Al-Khatib] As far as the Palestinians are concerned, we don't feel this is something unusual or new because we are used to dealing with the Israelis. We are living under their occupation. The only difference this time is that we are at equal footing with them. Our relations with them

is limited to official exchange. We have a policy that our interaction should be limited to official exchange.

[THE STAR] Have you noticed any difference in Israel's attitude between the first rounds under Likud and the latter ones under Labor?

[Al-Khatib] In the general atmosphere no, because they are the same persons. In substance, the changes are very minimal. There has been some few changes in the Israeli position after the new government which are extremely marginal. For example, the previous government was against national political elections for the interim period, this government has accepted that. As far as the major issues are concerned, Jerusalem, geographic jurisdiction etc., it is more or less the same position. Another change, the previous government used to be strictly against any legislative powers for the Palestinians during the interim period, this government is willing to deal positively with limited legislative powers.

[THE STAR] And when you are in Washington how do you coordinate with the rest of the teams?

[Al-Khatib] Between us and the Arab delegations, there are two levels of coordination, there is a coordinating committee that includes one member from each delegation and this committee meets daily. At the same time there is coordination at the level of heads of delegations. That happens according to the need, usually they meet every three or four days. We hold a daily session with the Israelis on each track. Each session takes an average of three hours and the two delegations meet in front of each other, mainly the heads of the delegations speak.

[THE STAR] What was the U.S. reply to the Palestinian document and how close are you to reaching an agreement on a joint declaration of principles with Israel?

[Al-Khatib] Contrary to what was published in Jordanian papers, we have not got a reply to the last Palestinian draft.... We are not close to an agreement at all. The gap is still extremely wide. It can not be bridged by formulations and drafts. It's very early and premature to get into the drafting stage because the U.S. should continue the bilateral efforts...especially with Israel to influence her towards changing (her) position. For example Israel still refuses to give any territorial dimension to the interim arrangement, it is still insisting that Jerusalem is totally outside the scope of negotiations and (it) [is] still refusing to acknowledge that the territories are occupied, to them it is disputed, which is a violation of (UN Resolutions) 242 and 338.

[THE STAR] What about Bassam Abu-Sharif's suggestion to establish a temporary Palestinian government in Jericho?

[Al-Khatib] I think this is a personal view, we don't agree with and I don't know of any Palestinian leader who supported this statement. But it is different from the Israeli idea of "Gaza First." The Palestinian idea talks about withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, while the

Israelis are talking about applying the interim arrangements of the autonomy only in Gaza. This idea of Gaza-Jericho is not so popular within the Palestinians, especially people in Gaza. I know that all the members of the delegation are not supportive of this idea.

[THE STAR] Actually it has complicated things, don't you agree?

[Al-Khatib] The negotiations over the interim phase has faced a deadlock. So Palestinians are thinking of suggesting different scenarios to get out of the deadlock and I think that it is legitimate for the Palestinians to try to seek different approaches to get us out of this deadlock. Some people are suggesting confederation, others are suggesting the idea of the early empowerment...about Gaza and Jericho first, about the need to simply skip the interim phase negotiations and move directly to the final status of the negotiations. So it's a period where people are making different suggestions....

[THE STAR] What do you hope to achieve in the 11th round?

[Al-Khatib] Usually the decision to go or not to go is taken in the Arab foreign ministers coordination meeting, which will take place on the 22d of this month in Beirut. However I and my party [the Palestine Peoples Party] believe that the Palestinian side should not participate in the next round and should link our participation to two factors; one, the Israeli adherence to the terms of reference (at Madrid), without it there is no point of going, and second, we should link our participation to the Israeli practices in the Occupied Territories. Israel should not be able to continue stalling in the negotiations and...continue using time to make changes in the Occupied Territories that prejudice the outcome of the negotiations...(that's why) I suspended my participation in the last two rounds.

[THE STAR] It is said that the PLO will have to make concession on Jerusalem, geographical sovereignty and others in the coming weeks. How true is this?

[Al-Khatib] I say that the PLO and the Palestinian side have already made bitter concession in order to start this peace process. We don't have anything to give up! So we can't make concessions. We are negotiating on the basis of Security Council resolutions; simply the end result of the negotiations should be to get means and ways in which these resolutions should be implemented. So we are going there to arrange the exchange of land for peace. There is no way in which we can give up any of these.... I think the PLO should not make any further concessions and I guess they're not going to make any further concessions.

[THE STAR] Does the delegation still enjoy the support of the majority of Palestinians in the Occupied Territories?

[Al-Khatib] It has been realized by everybody in the delegation that (they) do not enjoy the support in continuing the negotiations in the way it is going on now.

Probably you read the public opinion poll that was published recently...it said that there is no majority support for the continuity of the peace negotiations as it is going on now, which means in my view that the Palestinian majority supports the peace process in general....

[THE STAR] But don't you think that the Palestinians need to start a national debate on the peace process to organize their ranks to confront the current challenges?

[Al-Khatib] I think there is need for that. It's natural for any nation that is (facing) such difficult development and strategic decisions to find that there are different views. The problem is not that we have different views, not that we have a body that supports the peace process and another that doesn't; but...there are things that can be done to defuse the negative possible consequences of this division. For example, to escalate resistance against the occupation is something that there are no differences on.

[THE STAR] Do you think that the time has come to end U.S. monopoly over the peace process and to seek direct talks with the Israelis under UN rules?

[Al-Khatib] Negotiations are based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338. Now originally the peace process was sponsored by two superpowers but later it happened that the Soviet Union collapsed and role of Russia became extremely marginal. That's why we raised the need for solving this problem and we suggested for example adding the presidency of the EC either in addition to or instead of Russia. But this suggestion was not accepted. The Europeans were interested in this idea, but they did not fight for it and we can't be more Catholic than the Pope. So I agree that the Arab delegations and the Arab governments should insist on a more evenhanded sponsorship of these negotiations.

[THE STAR] Why have you embarked on the negotiations at one of the lowest periods in Arab history especially after the Gulf War?

[Al-Khatib] Simply because we did not have any choice. As a Palestinian we were in front of one of two options, either to be in this peace process or not. There have been much bigger reasons for the peace process. I think, the fall of the Soviet Union was one reason, the fall of the balance of power at the international level was another, the Gulf War was a reason, so we can't be asked why there was a peace process because we were not a party to making it. The peace process was going to be established...we thought if we are out of it we will have losses because others might negotiate on (our) behalf and the future of our cause might be determined in our absence.

[THE STAR] If the negotiations collapse what other options do you have?

[Al-Khatib] If the negotiations collapse then we go back into the kind of political life that we were living before the negotiations, which is to continue the struggle against the occupation and to continue to resist the different forms of pressures by the Israelis and to continue to

build our own institutions and our own infrastructure as much as we can. There was a form of armed struggle before the peace process and during the peace process and it will continue.

Editorial Criticizes U.S. Stance on Libya

PM1808155493 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 17 Aug 93 p 1

[Editorial: "No Alternative to al-Qadhafi's Head"]

[Text] The Libyan Government has rejected the U.S.-British-French ultimatum requesting surrender of the two Lockerbie incident suspects before 1 October and has begun preparing for new tight sanctions which might include freezing Libyan assets abroad and imposing a ban on Libyan oil.

So the countdown begins for a new U.S. aggression against a weakened Arab country let down and conspired against by other Arab countries when they allowed the air ban against it to be passed without objection and when, before that, some of them contributed to the destruction of the military capabilities of another Arab country, Iraq, which had resisted U.S. control of Arab decisionmaking.

It should be acknowledged that the Libyan Government has been trying for the past two years to solve the Lockerbie problem by all possible means. It cooperated with all the Arab "mediators" in that respect and proposed various ways out of the dilemma. It offered to let the two suspects stand trial in any other neutral country, but all that was rejected by the U.S. Administration.

Libya offered to compensate the families of the victims in accordance with international law, but the three states rejected that. It provided information, described by the British Government as more than valuable, about Irish Republican Army (IRA) activities, sources of arms, and training, but that was not enough for John Major and his government, who wanted more from Libya and its government.

The Libyan Government overlooked the trip the Libyan "pilgrims" made to occupied Jerusalem, received Israelis such as Abie Nathan and others in the Jamahir-iyah, and expressed willingness to compensate the Libyan Jews, but even that step, which blemished Libya's image in the Arab world, was not enough for Washington and did not help ease the old sanctions or prevent new sanctions.

What, then, do the United States, Britain, and France want?

The answer is simply this: They want Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi's head and the head of every Arab leader who says no to Israeli and U.S. arrogance in the Arab region. We would not be surprised if the U.S. Administration decided to exhume the late leader Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir to put him on trial as an act of revenge.

The United States is the only superpower. There is no other rival power. It, therefore, wants to wreak vengeance and choose easy targets to satisfy itself. It is wreaking vengeance on the Palestinians by directing its rich Gulf allies to starve them by stopping their financial aid to the Palestinians. It is wreaking vengeance on the Iraqis by maintaining the blockade against them and by sending inspection teams to humiliate their government with impossible demands. Now it is threatening to cut off the main Libyan lifeline, the oil.

By imposing an oil embargo on Libya, the United States would be killing several birds with one stone. It would be punishing the Libyan people and their government and would be increasing oil prices to enable such states as Saudi Arabia to settle the bills for arms deals concluded with the United States, Britain, and France and thus rescue the economies of those three countries, and it would also be disciplining every other state which contemplates supporting the liberation movements and, especially, the Palestinian factions.

The Libyan Government may be right not to hand over its nationals, for the simple reason that even if it did, that would not change the U.S. hostility toward the Arabs and their just causes and would not stop the flow of impossible demands. The U.S. Government will not rest until it sees Col. al-Qadhafi in its own "court of justice," just as it did with Noriega.

Egypt

Further on Attempted Assassination of Interior Minister

Council of Ministers Meets

NC1908141993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1424 GMT
18 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Aug (MENA)—The Council of Ministers held an emergency session this afternoon under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi.

Dr. Sidqi had cut short a visit to al-Bahayrah Governorate earlier today as soon as he was notified of the assault against Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Ali.

Counselor Ahmad Radwan, minister of state at the Council of Ministers, said after the meeting, which lasted several hours, that the cabinet discussed the security situation in the wake of the sinful attack against Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Ali. The attack caused casualties among citizens and policemen.

He said the cabinet reviewed the Interior Ministry's report on the incident, how it occurred, the material used in it, and the criminal laboratory's report.

The cabinet also discussed the measures taken to protect citizens and public facilities.

Counselor Radwan said the cabinet, while strongly condemning this hateful terrorism, mourns with the nation the martyrs assassinated at the hand of terrorism without committing any crime and wishes speedy recovery to the interior minister and to all wounded citizens and policemen.

Radwan said that the Council of Ministers made the necessary decisions to confront terrorism and punish its perpetrators and planners at home and abroad.

He said the cabinet approved the necessary and immediate measures to protect society and defend the march of democracy and the right of Egyptians to live peacefully.

Details of Investigation Reported

NC1908141993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] In a follow-up to the Interior Ministry's statement yesterday about the unsuccessful attack on the interior minister while he was on his way to the ministry, a security source has announced that State Security police and the Criminal Investigation Department made a thorough examination of the attack scene after cordoning off the area.

Intensive investigations carried out immediately after the incident revealed that the suspect, Nazih Nushi Rashid Ahmad, was at the site of the attack and that he was among the individuals who planned the unsuccessful assassination attempt. Based on these findings, a team of investigators was assigned to check the cases of the people injured during the incident and to ascertain whether this suspect was among them.

The suspect was transferred to the Qasr al-Ayni Hospital for urgent ing surgery. He was admitted under the name of William Najih Sayfayn. An identity card carrying this name was found among his personal effects when he was taken into the operating room. The identity card's number is 62345, issued by the Heliopolis Civil Registration Office on 11 May 1978. It states that the holder is a Christian, holds a bachelor's degree in accounting, and lives at 11 al-Hijaz Street, Heliopolis.

Prompt investigations proved that the information on the identity card is false. The Civil Registration Department was consulted and it has no official record of such an identity card.

When the State Security Police General Directorate compared the card with various specimens of identity cards used by terrorist groups in their operations, it was identical to cards formerly seized with some terrorist extremists who had returned from Afghanistan. It was also proved that it was printed by a printing press owned by these people, who use it to produce forged passports and such cards.

The State Security Police discovered that Nazih Nushi Rashid's right leg was amputated and that he suffered an internal hemorrhage as a result of the explosion. At one

point he claimed his name was Muhammad Tawfiq. Preliminary investigations point to the likelihood that another person helped the suspect carry out the attack. This other person was killed when his body was blown to several bits, which were transferred to a morgue in the Zaynuhum area. Further examination showed several parts of the motorcycle used in the attack embedded in parts of the corpse. The motorcycle's license number is al-Jizah-16102, registered in the name of Nasr-al-Din Sayyid 'Ali, who is employed by the Arab Contractors Company and resides in al-Jami' residential area in al-Qattamiyah. He has another address in al-Duqqi, from where his personal effects had been stolen. It transpired that he never bought a motorcycle and that the terrorists used his stolen identity card when registering the motorcycle.

Investigations showed the suspect Nazih Rashid was born in al-Sahil [Asyut Governorate] and that he used a forged passport to travel several times abroad to meet with his terrorist colleagues. He was arrested in 1981, 1983, 1984, and twice in 1987. He was indicted in several armed robbery cases involving a goldsmith in Shubra al-Khaymah, for joining the al-Jihad Organization, and for attempting to assassinate the Tura Prison warden.

Investigations also showed that, while in Afghanistan, the suspect received an advanced training course in the use of weapons, and the manufacture and use of explosives. His name was cited in an earlier attack on a tourist bus in al-Malik al-Salih, along with the suspects Usamah Jibril and 'Adil 'Awad.

The State Security Police General Directorate made several earlier attempts to arrest him. At the time he was using a house at 29 'Uthman Bin-'Affan Street in the Pyramids area as a hideout and fled moments before it was raided. Two automatic rifles with six magazines, two grenades, and 151 7.62-mm bullets were found in the house.

The suspect was formerly sentenced to three years imprisonment in the armed robbery case of a goldsmith in Shubra al-Khaymah and the attempted murder of the jeweler Mamduh Murqus. He is also wanted in connection with the Vanguard of Conquest Military Case No. 18 for 1993. He was involved, along with other individuals, in the assassination of 'Adil Anwar in Hada'iq al-Qubbah in July, Criminal Case No. 30.

The State Security Prosecutor's Office has been notified to begin investigating the case.

The Interior Ministry, which is continuing its investigations to uncover all the circumstances of the incident and the identities of those who participated in it, will issue further statements.

Suspect Dies of Injuries

NC1908103393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] A security source has reported that Nazih Nushi Rashid, the terrorist suspected of attempting to assassinate the interior minister and who was injured during the attempt, died of his wounds in al-Qasr al-'Ayni Hospital this morning.

Second Suspect Identified

NC1908140793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1312 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] A responsible security source has stated that pursuant to the statements released by the Interior Ministry yesterday regarding the abortive attempt on the life of Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi while he was on his way to the Interior Ministry, initial investigations by the competent agencies indicate that there was another person with the defendant Nazih Nusfi Rashid who participated in carrying out the attack. He died at the scene of the explosion and his body was torn to pieces, which were taken to the Zaynuhum morgue. As it happens, the body was at the center of the explosion and parts of the motorcycle used in the attack had shreds of his corpse stuck to them.

The Interior Ministry's investigation agencies used state-of-the-art scientific methods to determine the identity of the dead man. The body was that of terrorist Tariq 'Abd-al-Nabi Hasan al-Fahl, who was a member of the Vanguard of Conquest Organization, born on 20 September 1965, in Abu Za'bal, al-Khankah, where he lived. He obtained a law degree in 1988. He worked at the (Kir) Service Company in al-'Abbasiyah. His fingerprints, available at the investigation agencies, were compared with those of the corpse and found to be identical.

The security agencies summoned his brother Jamal 'Abd-al-Nabi Hasan al-Fahl, an engineer in Abu Za'bal Fertilizers and Chemical Materials Company; his sister Muna 'Abd-al-Nabi Hasan; and his wife Muna Judah Muhammad 'Umar, a teacher at the Abu Za'bal High School. They identified the body.

The security organs' investigations indicate that the dead terrorist was one of the leaders of the Vanguard of Conquest organization. He traveled to Afghanistan in 1990 where he spent a year receiving military training in various types of fighting and learned how to use all kinds of weapons and make all kinds of explosives. In addition, he received training in how to wage gangster wars and kidnap hostages and hold them captive. He received this training together with other members of the Vanguard of Conquest organization who are still fugitives there.

Extensive investigations carried out by the general department of the State Security Investigations and criminal investigations bodies indicate that he used forged passports to facilitate his travels abroad. The Higher State Security Prosecution has been told to proceed with its investigations. The Interior Ministry

will continue to issue statements on any new information regarding the incident. The units formed from the State Security Investigations, Public Security Department, and specialized police forces continue their efforts to unveil the dimensions of this sinful act and track down everyone who took part with the suspects in preparing and organizing this unsuccessful attempt.

God speaketh the truth when he says in his holy Koran: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Fain would they extinguish God's light with their mouths, but God will not allow but that His light should be perfected, even though the unbelievers may detest (it). [Koranic verse]

Authorities Arrest 245 'Militants'

NC1808210693 Paris AFP in English 2048 GMT
18 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, Aug 18 (AFP)—Two hundred and forty-five Islamic militants were arrested in Cairo Wednesday [18 August] after suspected fundamentalist activists tried to kill the interior minister, missing him but killing three other people, it was announced.

Deputy Interior Minister General 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Nahas said security forces had detained 245 people. But "up to now no connection has been established between these people and the attempt" on the life of Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi, he said.

Al-Alfi is in hospital with a broken right arm and an ear injury.

Al-Nahas said police reinforcements had been deployed along the motorways out of Cairo to prevent the attackers fleeing the capital. [passage omitted]

Doctor Details Minister's Injuries

NC1808160293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT
18 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Aug (MENA)—MENA has learned that Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi's condition is reassuring and that he spoke to some of his visitors at the police hospital in al-'Ajuzah. Al-Alfi told his visitors that heavenly providence saved his life when he moved from the right to the left side of the car just 10 minutes before it reached the scene of the explosion.

The explosive charge the perpetrators used in the aborted assassination attempt was placed on a motorbike to the right of the minister's car as it was heading to his office in al-Shaykh Rayhan Street.

[In a related report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1516 GMT cites attending physician Dr. Sharif Mukhtar as saying that the interior minister "has a multiple fracture in the right upper arm. The first stage of the treatment was completed and a cast was put on. The minister also suffers from a cut in the right ear, Dr. Mukhtar said.

["Dr. Mukhtar added that the minister's condition is reassuring and that the necessary X-rays and ultrasonic

tests were conducted on the abdomen, indicating that all the internal organs are intact."]

Al-Alfi Speaks to Reporters

NC1808162693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1543 GMT
18 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Aug (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has said that the terrorist attack against him today revealed that the perpetrators are base, lowly, and not truly religious.

The minister told Egyptian television after leaving the operating room at the police hospital in al-'Ajuzah this evening that the incident makes it clear to the entire world that the terrorists are irreligious killers and butchers.

The minister appeared in good health as he spoke to the television. His right ear was bandaged and his right arm was in a cast.

The minister asked: What crime did the innocent citizens who were killed or wounded in this criminal attack commit?

He stressed that he will carry on with his mission together with the police for the sake of Egypt and its security and stability.

The minister said that the incident showed the public how lowly and mean its perpetrators are. What happened, he said, is unacceptable by the standards of any religion, creed, or principle.

Stressing that he believes in God's fate, al-Alfi said he is ready to do anything for Egypt. He emphasized that the security forces will continue to confront the terrorists and maintain Egypt's security and stability.

The minister appealed to the public to continue confronting the terrorists. He expressed deep sorrow for the victims of the incident and wished a speedy recovery to all the wounded.

The minister, speaking from his hospital bed and appearing in good spirits, said God is the best protector, and that He, not the terrorists, can take people's lives.

Al-Alfi Grants Radio Interview

NC1908070593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 0414 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Interview with Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Congratulations on your escape.

[Al-Alfi] Thank you.

[Correspondent] What is Your Excellency's comment on this criminal act?

[Al-Alfi] I [words indistinct] public opinion and the people that this was a vile [words indistinct]. I am doing my duty as best as I can, thanks be to God. I am ready to sacrifice myself for Egypt. We will continue to protect Egypt, God willing.

[Correspondent] All Egypt is condemning this vile act and wishes you a quick recovery.

[Al-Alfi] Who can justify what happened and why? What for? What religion, creed, or principle approves the killing of innocent people? We will continue with our policy, and God Almighty is the best protector. It is God and not individuals who decides when one dies. Individuals are not the ones who decide who to kill. God is the best protector, and we fear only Him. God willing, we will continue to protect Egypt's security and stability for the sake of all the citizens. I appeal to all the citizens to confront, oppose, and fight them. Their vileness and baseness have become apparent. They have no religion, heart, or conscience. The painful thing is the innocent people who were hit. What did they do? I reiterate that the public must ostracize these people from society. These people are supposed to have [word indistinct] and the public should punish them. The others who were hit and injured, what did they do and what crime did they commit? It is clear to all the public and the world that these terrorists are killers and butchers who have no religion or conscience. Everyone must resist them. God is the protector and no one is [word indistinct] than other. Thanks be to God. I am ready to confront anything.

[Correspondent] Thank God for your escape, and we and all Egypt are wishing you a quick recovery.

[Al-Alfi] May God bless you, and I thank you very much. I wish a quick recovery for all the injured.

To Receive Treatment in Switzerland

NC1908141293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT
19 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Aug (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi issued a decision today for the travel of Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi to a Swiss medical center specializing in surgery on joints. Sidqi told MENA that despite the reassuring medical condition of the interior minister, it was decided to make a thorough check to ensure the proper functioning of his right elbow joint. The interior minister is scheduled to leave Cairo for Switzerland later for the necessary medical checks.

Sidqi Visits al-Alfi in Hospital

NC1808210993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT
18 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Aug (MENA)—At the end of the Council of Ministers meeting this evening, Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi visited Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi to reassure himself about his health and convey to him the greetings of the ministers after the successful surgery on his arm at the police hospital in al-'Ajuzah.

Dr. Sidqi also visited the injured people who are receiving treatment at the hospital.

The prime minister said that the interior minister is in good and reassuring condition. He described the incident as extremely regrettable and asked what crime those who were martyred or wounded in the criminal attack committed.

He asked whether such acts serve Islam and said he wondered what kind of logic the perpetrators are using, in whose interest they are working, and what objectives they are seeking to achieve.

He stressed that the terrorists are serving only the enemies of Egypt because they are shaking the image of the country, its people, its stability, and its future—a crime more serious than assassinations or bombings. He stressed that Egypt rejects this and will not remain silent to it.

The prime minister said Egypt will remain safe and will not be affected by such criminal acts, which will only strengthen our determination to pursue the terrorists and get rid of them so that they will not harm Egypt. He said: We care about the country, not about ourselves. We are here today and may not be here tomorrow, and everybody must die according to his destiny.

He stressed that such criminal acts will not determine Egypt's policies or conduct.

Musa Denounces Attack

NC1908080593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT
19 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo this morning for Uganda at the start of an African tour that will include Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Kenya.

Musa stated before his departure that during this tour he will deliver messages from President Husni Mubarak to the heads of the six states on African issues and Egypt's efforts to solve African problems.

He explained that his talks will deal with various African issues, in view of Egypt's responsibilities as chairman of the OAU.

In his statement, Musa also denounced the terrorist attack against Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi and said that such terrorist actions are harmful to the people and the country. He stressed the need to eliminate terrorism completely because incidents that affect Egypt's security must not be tolerated.

Labor Party Official Justifies Antiregime Attacks

NC1908082693 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0730 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Amjad Lutfi, secretary of the Egyptian Labor Party leader, has stated that what is currently happening in Egypt is due to the acts of torture, terrorism, and

hanging that the Egyptian regime is carrying out against the Islamists. In an interview with our radio, Lutfi noted that these actions by the Egyptian authorities could lead to worse clashes with angry youths in the future.

Information Minister on 'Abd-al-Rahman, U.S. Ties
NC1908095393 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic 15 Aug 93
pp 19-21

[Interview with Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif by Muhammad Mustafa in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Mustafa] Some states in the region are exporting terrorism to Egypt. What is Egypt's position?

[Al-Sharif] Egypt's national security is an integral whole, and when it comes to maintaining it we do not differentiate between one country or another. National security is national security, and it is maintained through certain methods, institutions, and legislations. In this matter, Egypt does not flatter, sympathize, or concede. It lies in wait with all necessary security or diplomatic means for anyone exporting terrorism to it or trying to tamper with its national security. This is how Egypt has always been: clear and candid.

[Mustafa] How do you view the conduct of the U.S. media concerning Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman?

[Al-Sharif] Before the issue of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman surfaced in the United States, I had said in a press statement: We should not think that there is a U.S. conspiracy against Egypt, and we have to differentiate fully between the position of some U.S. media and the position of the U.S. Administration because the U.S.-led Western media have their own nature and characteristics. [passage omitted]

We must have confidence in and refrain from attacking Western media. We must use logic and dialogue when we deal with them, and we must give them a chance to know the facts. We must not close our doors to them so that we will not be negatively affected. We expanded the campaign against terrorism to mobilize the Egyptian public by giving it all the facts without hiding anything. Foreign correspondents live in Egypt, and they watch television and read newspapers. They live in the heart of this situation, so why should we isolate them from this climate when they write in their newspapers?

When the issue of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman emerged, some Egyptian newspapers and magazines were the first to write about it. The subject was soon grabbed by the U.S. media, especially since 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman wanted to appear as a hero and a legend, although his followers only number in the dozens. Not all Islamic groups use violence; there are intellectual groups and so on.

Here, we must make it clear that some forces—and they are not states—do not want Egypt to play a regional role, either in the national security of the region or in the security of the Gulf. Some groups—the Sunnis and the

Shiites—also want to turn Egypt into a field for their struggle. But Egypt will not be the field for this struggle because, thanks to the nature of its Islam and the maturity and understanding of its people, it rejects such conflicts.

Some sides, seeing that tourism in Egypt represented 38 percent of the region's tourism, found a chance to attack Egypt's economy. They found a chance to attack tourism through somebody like 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman.

I stress that there will be no Khomenyism in Egypt. The people of Egypt categorically reject this. Arguments to the contrary are merely allegations and erroneous analyses, and their promoters know that they are far from the truth. We are resisting terrorism, curbing attacks, and not hiding anything.

Egypt is not Algeria, and it will not be.

It is not Iran, and it will not be.

And Egypt is not a toy in the hands of any big power.

We are a democratic country respecting human rights and the Constitution. We have our own culture, and we have a military establishment to protect our national security. As a big power, Egypt adheres to its role. [passage omitted]

[Mustafa] Is Egypt still demanding the extradition of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman?

[Al-Sharif] Egypt asked for his extradition as an exercise of its natural right. The Egyptian judiciary decided this. Egypt is dealing with him only as citizen 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, no more and no less. I believe the issue has to do with legal U.S. procedures; we have no differences over it. There is not the slightest dispute or any tense relation between Egypt and the United States. I say this very clearly as the information minister of Egypt. Some groups are trying to create tension between Egypt and the United States. In whose interest? This is the big question.

[Mustafa] How do you explain attacks by some Egyptian press against the United States and its policy?

[Al-Sharif] This supports my argument exactly, that in a democratic country there is absolutely no link between the media and the administration. President Clinton comes under attack from the U.S. media, the same media that adopted a position against President Bush and are now taking different positions.

The meeting between President Mubarak and President Clinton was scheduled to last about 15 minutes, after which the two delegations would join the presidents. What happened, however, is that the closed meeting lasted for more than one hour and the situation was reversed: The meeting between the two delegations shrank to 15 minutes.

It was a cordial meeting because President Mubarak is always clear and frank. He explains Egyptian and Arab views and adheres to all principles and values.

[Mustafa] Are there any Egyptian-U.S. differences over the Gulf region and the presence of forces there?

[Al-Sharif] No. There are no differences. [passage omitted]

Opposition Parties Submit Message to Christopher

NC1808110893 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Aug 93
p 1,9

[Text] AL-SHA'B publishes the text of a message that the Egyptian opposition party leaders presented to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The message warned of U.S. alignment with Israel, the continuing blockade against the Iraqi people, and the lack of action in the tragedy of the Muslim people in Bosnia. The message was signed by Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri, Wafd Party Leader Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din, National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party Leader Khalid Muhyi al-Din, Nasirite Democratic Arab Party Leader Diya'-al-Din Dawud, Liberal Party Leader Kamil Murad, Misr al-Fatah Party Leader 'Aliy-al-Din Salih, and Misr al-Fatah Party Secretary General Mahmud al-Miliji.

The following is the text of the message that was submitted to Christopher during his first visit to the region. The message is still important because of the U.S. Administration's failure to respond to its demands:

Mr. Warren Christopher, secretary of state of the United States:

Greetings. The Egyptian opposition parties take the opportunity of the visit by the representative of the new U.S. Administration to our region to highlight certain general basic issues. It is our duty to tell you that our people feel bitter about the current developments in the Arab region, especially since the Gulf war. During the Gulf crisis many people expected a U.S. stand that would be different from what we can see now.

1. Many people expected that in view of the Arab position, "particularly the Egyptian and Syrian Governments' position" the Arabs would be rewarded with an active U.S. move to resolve the chronic issues in the Middle East, primarily the Palestinian people's issue and the withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Fair as this expectation is, it would open a new leaf in relations with the United States, safeguard its interests, and achieve stability. This expectation was enhanced because the Arab heads of state demonstrated great flexibility toward understanding and a peaceful solution. We had hoped that the United States would take the opportunity, given its unilateral leadership of the world order, to meet the Israeli arrogance with pressure to show some moderation. This did not happen

and Israel even persisted in its aggression to the point of deporting hundreds of Palestinians without any serious U.S. objection.

2. The Egyptian opposition party leaders also note that the sanctions against the Iraqi people have exceeded all reasonable limits, causing the people there to make massive sacrifices that are politically and humanly unjustified. As we call for pressure on Israel, we also call for alleviating the economic blockade against the Iraqi people "in preparation for lifting it" and stress the unity of the state of Iraq and the beginning of a political dialogue with that country.

3. In a final point relating to the crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina, we call for a military and political U.S. move to put an end to the crimes of ethnic cleansing. We aspire to see the same principles govern international relations on various issues. Specifically, we would like to see the same firmness you use in the Gulf directed at Israel and the Serbs. We wish you, Mr. Secretary of State, a successful trip to contain tension and establish a fair peace. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, Mubarak Hold Talks on Lockerbie, Relations

Leaders Discuss Western Demands, Lockerbie
NC1808175293 Paris AFP in English 1715 GMT
18 Aug 93

[Report by Efaf Geblawi]

[Excerpts] Tripoli, Aug 18 (AFP)—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak met here Wednesday [18 August] to discuss Libya's dispute with the West over the Lockerbie bombing, as Tripoli signalled a new willingness to cooperate.

The two leaders met alone and then were joined by Libya's prime minister 'Umar Abu-Zayd Durdah and foreign minister 'Umar al-Muntasir, and Egypt's information minister Safwat al-Sharif, Libyan officials said.

The officials said the leaders discussed the crisis over western demands that Libya hand over two Libyans accused of blowing up a Pan American airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people in 1988, or face tougher sanctions.

No details from the talks emerged, but a foreign ministry official told AFP that "since the start of the crisis, Libya has called for dialogue and demonstrated its willingness to cooperate.

"Libya can put many things on the negotiating table," said the official who declined to be identified, commenting on a statement Tuesday by Foreign Minister 'Umar al-Muntasir.

The minister, in an interview with AFP, said Libya was prepared to discuss the possibility that 'Abd-al-Basit al-Mijrahi and al-Amin Khalifah Fahimah stand trial in Britain or the U.S. Tripoli had earlier insisted they be tried in a "neutral" country. [passage omitted]

A Foreign Ministry official said Western nations "persisted in their policy of ignoring the positive initiatives taken by Libya since the beginning of the crisis. Libya always extends its hands but wants such a gesture to occur without threats and warnings," he said. [passage omitted]

Discuss Cooperation Prospects

LD1808205193 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Excerpt] The brother leader of the revolution and President Husni Mubarak of the sister Arab Republic of Egypt held several meetings today dealing with relations between the Great Jamahiriyyah and sisterly Egypt. They discussed a strategy for economic and political action that will achieve integration between the two sister countries. The meetings also covered Arab and international issues, first and foremost of which was a discussion of the Arab situation and the strengthening of joint Arab action to enable the Arab nation to face up to the international circumstances and realize its own potential.

Other, far-ranging discussions were held. They dealt with the implementation of agreements, economic projects and investments, the development of trade exchanges, the simplification of customs procedures, infrastructural projects in the fields of roads and railways, electricity supply links, pipelines, and other major projects. The brother leader of the revolution and President Husni Mubarak of the sister Arab Republic of Egypt held an on-camera meeting this evening. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Seeks Dialogue With U.S.

NC1908082093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0709 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Aug (MENA)—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, has called on the United States to begin a dialogue with Libya to resolve the Lockerbie crisis. During a meeting with Egyptian journalists accompanying President Husni Mubarak to Libya, al-Qadhdhafi announced that Libya will not hand over its citizens to be tried in Britain, France, or the United States. He explained, however, that Libya does not object to the suspects going to those countries by themselves but "will not force them to go."

The leader of the Libyan revolution said his country will not offer more than it already has offered in connection with this case, and that talks must be held to discuss guarantees that the two suspects will get a fair trial.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi said Libya is waiting for the U.S. Administration's reply to his country's good intentions,

noting that this could create a favorable climate between the two countries. He said he is willing to hold talks with the U.S. Administration.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi urged U.S. President Clinton to have enough courage to resolve the Libyan crisis and extricate himself from Somalia and all other pitfalls.

He emphasized that Libya is not doing anything harmful to Clinton and announced: "We have no hostile intentions toward the Democrats."

Col. al-Qadhdhafi criticized the U.S. Administration's ultimatum that Libya hand over the Lockerbie suspects by 1 October, saying that this is a policy of "arm-twisting, not searching for a solution."

He asked why UN Security Council resolutions are implemented in the case of Libya but not Israel. He said the world opposes the sanctions against Libya, and is against having them tightened.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi explained that the Libyan cause is the cause of all the world's nations, remarking: With our present stance, we defend not only Libyan dignity but the dignity of all nations.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi denounced the former U.S. Administration, blaming it for the current crisis with Libya. He said the present U.S. Administration is innocent of this "predicament," which is a legacy from the Reagan and Bush days, declaring: "Those Republicans have dragged the Democrats into this issue."

Col. al-Qadhdhafi said that sanctions and war are unpleasant things that are full of evil, but that if they are imposed on Libya, "We will confront the situation."

Al-Qadhdhafi Urges Investments in Egypt

NC1908092493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0713 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Aug (MENA)—Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has called for doubling Libyan investments in Egypt, noting that nothing is preventing the strengthening of Egyptian-Libyan relations in all fields.

Al-Qadhdhafi told Egyptian correspondents accompanying President Husni Mubarak in Libya today that the reason for the weakness and scarcity of Libyan investments in Egypt is that the issue of investment is new to both Egypt and Libya. He added: There might be some problems, but we have gradually started to overcome them.

Reliable Libyan sources estimate the current amount of Libyan investments in Egypt to be around \$200 million.

Ambassador Interviewed on Mubarak Visit

NC1808122593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510
GMT 18 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Mustafa al-Shadhili, Egyptian Ambassador to Libya, in Tripoli, by Fawzi al-Jundi in Cairo, carried in the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] First of all, let me welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Shadhili] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Ambassador, let us begin this dialogue by discussing President Mubarak's current visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyyah. How could this visit contribute toward bolstering bilateral relations between Cairo and Tripoli?

[Al-Shadhili] Egyptian-Libyan relations and contacts continue on the presidential level between President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and brother Colonel Mu'amar al-Qadhafi. They always discuss bilateral relations. They also discuss Arab and international relations. Undoubtedly, the Lockerbie crisis imposes itself on talks between President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and brother Colonel Mu'amar al-Qadhafi.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Ambassador, we notice that this visit comes only a few days after the Security Council announced that it will continue sanctions against the Libyan Jamahiriyyah until the latter submits to the Security Council resolution calling for handing over the two suspects in the downing of the American airliner over Lockerbie. How do you view the timing of this visit?

[Al-Shadhili] This visit is just one of a series of periodic meetings between the two presidents. However, if we delve into the details of the Lockerbie crisis, we notice that Libya has done almost everything required of it under Resolutions 731 and 748. The dispute lies in the place to which the two suspects are to be handed over in order to stand trial before a fair court. I believe that this point can be resolved through discussions between the concerned parties. I hope that they will find a solution that satisfies everyone.

[Al-Jundi] Could we say that President Mubarak's current visit to Libya falls within the framework of these consultations?

[Al-Shadhili] As you clarified, this visit falls within the framework of periodic visits between the two presidents. The visit to the Jamahiriyyah is, in the first place, a regular one. During such visits, all issues of mutual concern are discussed, including the Lockerbie crisis.

[Al-Jundi] In your capacity as Egypt's ambassador to Libya, are you making any specific contacts between the parties to the conflict with Libya? Are there any contacts designed to bring viewpoints closer?

[Al-Shadhili] There is no doubt that contacts between Libya and the other parties to the conflict—the United States, Britain, and France—continue. The continuation of these contacts and the proposals and solutions presented by the Jamahiriyyah will undoubtedly lead to the best solution, and this cloud will disappear from the skies of the Jamahiriyyah, God willing.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Ambassador Mustafa al-Shadhili, Egypt's ambassador to the Libyan Jamahiriyyah, do you believe that the coming stage will make Libya take a new stand to avert the economic sanctions imposed on it now?

[Al-Shadhili] There is no doubt that any problem can be resolved through negotiations. The best solution will be found through negotiations.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Ambassador, do you mean direct negotiations with these countries?

[Al-Shadhili] Negotiations have so far been taking place in an indirect manner. The United Nations is sponsoring these negotiations. The UN secretary general recently met in New York with the Libyan foreign minister, who clarified the Jamahiriyyah's viewpoint. The UN secretary general asked that Libya clarify some points. By continuing negotiations and contacts, they will finally find a solution to this problem.

[Al-Jundi] Do you believe that the Egyptian role, in view of the fact that Egypt has good relations with these countries, could be more influential in lifting these sanctions?

[Al-Shadhili] The Egyptian role has not stopped since the crisis began. For 16 months Egyptian efforts to find a solution to this crisis have not stopped. God willing, we will find a solution to this crisis that satisfies all sides.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Ambassador Mustafa al-Shadhili, how have the economic sanctions imposed by the Security Council on the Libyan Jamahiriyyah affected Egyptian-Libyan relations?

[Al-Shadhili] Egyptian economic relations and interests have been greatly affected by these sanctions, such as in the decrease in trade and difficulties in transportation between the two countries because of the absence of flights. All these factors have affected economic relations and Egypt's interests in the Libyan Jamahiriyyah.

[Al-Jundi] It is noteworthy that the Security Council's resolution to maintain economic sanctions on Libya comes after a visit to New York by Libyan Foreign Minister 'Umar al-Muntasir [title as received]. Is this considered an indication that the Libyan minister did not make any headway during his consultations in New York?

[Al-Shadhili] On the contrary, the Libyan minister exerted great efforts. We expect some progress in this direction.

[Al-Jundi] Do you view the postponement of a stricter decision against the Libyan Jamahiriyyah as a positive or negative step?

[Al-Shadhili] Of course it is a positive step that provides the opportunity for efforts and consultations to take their course. As the Jamahiriyyah itself said, this opportunity provides a chance for a solution because it gives us some time, a period of a few weeks, especially when one considers that this problem has been going on for nearly five years. Undoubtedly, it is a positive step toward finding a solution.

[Al-Jundi] Does Your Excellency believe that the coming stage, between now and the beginning of October, provides enough time for more negotiations and action to break the ice between the Libyan Jamahiriyyah and the other parties to the conflict?

[Al-Shadhili] Undoubtedly, it is a short period of time, but we hope that during this time some successes will be achieved.

[Al-Jundi] Let us return to President Mubarak's current visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyyah and his discussions with brother Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution. What kind of progress could these talks make?

[Al-Shadhili] Ever since the restoration of ties, relations between Egypt and the Libyan Jamahiriyyah have been progressing. The continuing consultations between the political leaders of the two countries, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and brother Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi, will undoubtedly lead to progress in relations between the two countries, which we hope will grow more and more until the desired goal is achieved.

[Al-Jundi] To conclude this dialogue, we thank Ambassador Mustafa al-Shadhili, who is talking to us now from the Libyan capital of Tripoli. Mr. Ambassador, Voice of the Arabs thanks you very much.

[Al-Shadhili] I thank you.

Source Explains Remarks on Surrender of Lockerbie Suspects

LD1908100393 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0740 GMT
19 Aug 93

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Aug (JANA)—Some mass media have attributed the following statement, made to AFP, as having been made by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation: "Libya does not exclude the trying of the two (Libyan) suspects in the United States or Britain."

A reliable source at the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation pointed out that what the statement meant was that "Libyan laws do not allow for the surrender of Libyan citizens by any

official authority, and that the two suspects have the right to surrender themselves to whomever they like... to choose any country they wish to surrender to ...and that the choice of the venue of the trial, in this case, is conditional on the desire of the two suspects...."

Sudan

Official Reactions to U.S. Terrorism Charge

Al-Bashir Calls Resolution 'Biased'

EA1808222093 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has described the U.S. resolution placing Sudan on the list of states supporting terrorism as a political resolution biased against Sudan. He said the United States had no evidence on which to condemn Sudan in the field of human rights or in that of terrorism.

During his routine meeting today with media leaders, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir referred to the organized campaign being waged by the United States and a number of Western states against Sudan. His excellency said the targeting of Sudan was due to Sudan's Islamic orientation and was indicative of U.S. hostility toward Islam.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir went on to say that the accusations are being directed against Sudan at a time when the human rights of Muslims in Bosnia and other parts of the world are being violated under the very noses of international organizations. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said the states being accused of exporting terrorism have denied the charge. His excellency the chairman stressed that Sudan enjoyed good relations with all the peoples of the world. It is worth noting that five states out of the seven being accused of terrorism are Islamic states.

Official Reacts to 'Regrettable' Decision

AB1808132093 Paris AFP in English 1219 GMT
18 Aug 93

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Aug (AFP)—The United States told Sudan on Wednesday [18 August] that it had been listed among states sponsoring terrorism, a Foreign Ministry official said here, adding that Khartoum was ready to fight terrorism.

Gutbi Mehdi, a senior official in the Foreign Ministry, said the government considered Washington's decision, notified to it by U.S. Ambassador Donald Petterson, "regrettable." Mehdi, who is responsible for political and administrative affairs, told reporters that the Sudanese Government had been in constant contact with the U.S. Administration over this matter of "deep concern."

Terrorism ran against the beliefs and Islamic orientation of the regime in Khartoum, Mehdi said.

Countries blacklisted by the United States become ineligible for most U.S. foreign assistance and military aid. They are required to obtain licenses for the purchase of U.S. products that could have military use. Humanitarian aid to Sudan, including this year's planned 50 million dollars in famine relief, will not be affected.

The decision announced by the U.S. State Department on Tuesday follows reports of links between the Sudanese Government and a plot to bomb sites in New York which was uncovered in June. Two diplomats at Sudan's mission to the United Nations were allegedly working as intelligence officers and had close ties with some of the 12 suspects arrested in the case, ABC News reported Monday. Five Sudanese men are among those charged in the plot.

CNN television stated there were clear links between the National Islamic Front, a theoretically outlawed party that in fact underpins the military junta in Khartoum, and the suspects in the case.

Mehdi reiterated Sudanese official denials of any involvement in terrorism and said Khartoum had already offered to set up a mechanism to cooperate with the United States in combatting it.

Washington apparently objected to Khartoum's "open-door" policy concerning foreigners and charged that the government's welcome "could lead these foreign non-Sudanese elements which have links with terrorism to make use of this situation," Mehdi added. "We have challenged the Americans to come up with a single proof that Sudanese national territories are being used for terrorist acts and we have expressed readiness to take any measures that would confirm the non-existence of such practices," he declared.

Washington's decision was the outcome of pressure from the U.S. Congress, lobbies hostile to the country's Islamic orientation and unsubstantiated Western media allegations against Sudan, Mehdi said.

The message handed to Khartoum "did not contain any specific evidence linking Sudan with terrorism or any justifications as to the reasons behind the decision," Mehdi added, calling it a "regrettable political" move.

Khartoum "will continue to protect all American citizens and American interests in the Sudan," he said.

U.S. officials said Tuesday that Secretary of State Warren Christopher decided to declare Sudan a terrorism sponsor over the weekend and his move was not directly related to the ABC report. A State Department official said that the decision was taken after a six-month review of Sudan's conduct. One U.S. official said the Federal Bureau of Investigation was looking into possible links between Sudanese diplomats and the plot.

U.S. officials said that Sudan had developed relationships with the Muslim fundamentalist group Hizballah and two radical Palestinian organizations: Abu Nidal,

implicated in the bombing of Rome and Vienna airports in 1985, and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

Parliament Chief on Ties With Iran, U.S. 'Influence' on UN

*LD1808111693 Tehran IRNA in English 1048 GMT
18 Aug 93*

[Text] Khartoum, Aug. 18, IRNA—Speaker of the Sudanese Transitional Parliament Mohammad Amin Khalifah Tuesday said consolidation of Tehran-Khartoum ties is principled and upon rational bases.

Speaking in an interview with IRNA, he remarked that bilateral ties would further expand in future. He warned against plots of the enemy to sow discord among Muslim ummah by abusing religious and ethnic issues and called on Muslims to further preserve their morale for fraternity and for Islamic unity. Khalifah stressed that no government had the right to interfere in policies of Sudan.

Referring to the invitation extended to him by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri to visit Tehran, he said he would make the visit in a near future.

Criticizing U.S. influence on the United Nations, he said that the UN should draw decisions independently and accept presence of the Iranian forces in Bosnia like forces from other Muslim countries.

As for human rights allegations against Khartoum, he said that Sudan observed human rights more than they were being observed in the U.S.

He pointed to the hostility of the Zionist regime with Muslims and said that the Zionists accepted direct and official talks with the Palestinian party in the 11th round of the Middle East talks due to the resistance shown by Lebanese Hizballah and their military operations. The Sudanese official refuted allegations that the Zionist acceptance was made due to the pressures imposed by the U.S. or other countries.

Khalifah expressed pessimism over the settlement of disputes between the Zionist regime and Arab states. Because, he added, the entire Muslim world was involved in the issue and not merely the Arabs.

The Sudanese official described his country's ties with Arab states of the Persian Gulf region as improving and noted that those countries should not give the Zionist regime the chance to take advantage of disputes among Arab nations.

Pointing to recent visit to Sudan of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, he said that his country welcomed good-will delegations to settle problems between Government of Sudan and the rebels. Carter recently visited Sudan to mediate between the Sudanese Government and the rebels in south of the country but he failed in his mission.

New Round of Government-Rebel Peace Talks Begins

EA1808111693 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 17 Aug 93

[Text] A new round of peace negotiations has begun between the government delegation, led by Manjo Ajak Akol, deputy governor of Upper Nile State; and the delegation of the unified movement [not further explained], led by Dr. Lam Akol Ajawin.

Following the meeting, Manjo Ajak stated that the negotiations were serious and truthful in their approach toward the issue of achieving peace. He said a great transformation had taken place in that the sons of a single homeland had sat down together in their homeland without any form of mediation or disorder. He said that they were made conscious of the serious nature of the aim of the unified movement to achieve peace in Sudan by realizing the lofty aspirations of the Sudanese citizens. Manjo Ajak said the dialogue touched on education and health services. He said the provision of these services to the citizen in his home area would end migration. The Upper Nile deputy governor said he hoped, for the sake of peace, that the dialogue would continue in Fashoda.

Dr. Lam Akol said the negotiations covered peace issues, stressed the need to continue relief operations for citizens, and stressed the need to provide them with services. He stressed the seriousness of the two sides in the negotiations, saying that these aims were achieved without any obstacles being placed in the way of the issues discussed. He said that, in this respect, the negotiations were successful. Dr. Lam Akol praised the efforts of (Kongo Dak Sadek), chief of the Shilluk tribe, who saw to it that the meeting was held under auspicious circumstances. This served to bring about a meaningful dialogue. He stressed that the unified movement was prepared to continue the dialogue with the Sudanese

Government to achieve peace, saying that the greatest obstacle to peace is sectarianism [al-ta'ifiyyah].

Second Round of Talks With Egypt Proposed

EA1808213493 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Dr. Sulayman Abu-Salih has proposed to his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa that they hold a second round of talks in Khartoum on 13 September on the basis of an agreement concluded in Cairo during the first round of talks in July.

'Umar Baridu, first secretary of the Foreign Ministry, speaking from the information desk at the ministry, said Dr. Abu-Salih had been in touch with his Egyptian counterpart through the Egyptian Embassy in Khartoum and that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry was expected to reply within the next two days. [passage omitted]

Tunisia**Ben Ali Receives Message From al-Qadhdhafi**

LD1808164593 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received a written message from Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, which was conveyed to him this morning at Carthage Palace by Mr. 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, the general commissioner of the sister Jamahiriyah to Tunisia.

Following the meeting, Mr. 'Abd al-'Ati said that he was honored with this meeting, adding that he had conveyed to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali a written message from his brother Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, which comes in the framework of consultations on the developments in our Maghreb and Arab region and on bilateral relations. He stated that he found that the president understands and follows up everything that is taking place and that his excellency gave him a reply to his brother Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi.

Kuwait

Decision To Dissolve Associations 'Irrevocable'

LD1808211993 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1626 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 18 Aug (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today said that the Kuwaiti Government's decision to suspend the work of unlicensed private associations is "irrevocable."

On the other hand, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, who was speaking to journalists, affirmed that he does not object to the principle of popular action participating in the release of the prisoners on condition that the six associations unite into one. [passage omitted]

He added: "We would have actually examined their application with seriousness, but regrettably, they did not accept that. [passage omitted]"

He said "there is a committee representing the National Assembly, there is the National Committee for Prisoners and Missing Persons Affairs, and there is the state, and all the Kuwaiti people are interested in this subject."

The decision in particular affects about six unlicensed private associations working in the spheres of human rights and the issue of the prisoners. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sabah denounced some of what the Assembly's session yesterday had witnessed, and said "the issues that took place were unnatural to us in Kuwait, and we never wished the subject to reach that level of disagreement between the members."

In reply to what the Committee of the Detained and Welfare for Martyrs' Families of the National Assembly, particularly those working in the prisoners' sphere, raised about the government not consulting it before issuing the decision to suspend the unlicensed associations, Shaykh Sabah said that the government "is an executive quarter, and there is nothing to force it to consult on such affairs," pointing out that the government was implementing the law.

Nongovernment Arabic Paper To Begin Publication

JN1808194693 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 10 Aug 93 p 1

[Special to the ARAB TIMES by Mahmud 'Abd-al-Qader]

[Text] Kuwait City, Aug 9—Kuwait Information Minister announced on Monday [9 August] that a nongovernment Arabic language newspaper will start publication very soon.

Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah told reporters after a meeting with the National Assembly Educational and Cultural Affairs Committee that he agreed in principle to establish a public authority for Radio and TV where government and private sector should share control. He,

however, said that the project needs an economic feasibility study before its implementation. The proposal was tabled by MP Talal al-Sa'id several months ago.

The minister, however, told the committee that another proposal by the same member to allow the operation of a private TV station in the country, needs more study.

Concerning the newspaper, Shaykh Sa'ud said it will publish locally in the beginning but in a later stage it will have an international edition. No more details about the newspaper were available. But according to sources, a shareholding company will be set up to publish the newspaper and one of the main owners is expected to be former information minister Dr. Badr al-Ya'qub.

The government owned one daily newspaper AL-FAJR AL-JADID which started publication after the liberation. The government also financially backed SAWT AL-KUWAIT. Both were suspended last year.

Government Offers Medical Treatment to Bosnians

LD1608125893 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] 'Abd-al-'Aziz Dakhil al-Dakhil, minister of state for Cabinet Affairs, has reaffirmed Kuwait's rejection of Serbia's aggression and the savage crimes being suffered by the innocent people of Bosnia. He expressed Kuwait's satisfaction with the meaningful international move to bring peace and stability to the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In a statement to KUNA, he added that, proceeding from the humanitarian role that Kuwait is anxious to adhere to, the Council of Ministers has decided to ask the Health Ministry to take the necessary measures to transport a number of sick and wounded Bosnians to Kuwait for treatment at Kuwaiti hospitals for humanitarian reasons. Kuwait is making this health care available to help reduce the suffering of the people of Bosnia and to consolidate the international efforts being made in this respect.

Saudi Arabia

King's Contacts With Clinton, Kuwaiti Amir Reported

LD1808101493 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Excerpts] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, has received a message from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait. The message was delivered to the custodian of the two holy mosques by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Bakr, Kuwait's ambassador to the Kingdom, during a meeting at his office at al-Salam palace yesterday. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, also received a telephone call yesterday evening from His Excellency U.S. President Bill Clinton. This contact came within the context of consolidating and strengthening the historical relations and the common interest existing between the two fraternal countries.

U.S. Attacks on Air Defense Battery Reported*JN1908105193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1035 GMT 19 Aug 93*

[Text] An official spokesman has stated the following to INA:

The U.S. Administration this morning committed a new aggression against an air defense position 20 km west of Mosul.

At 0855, U.S. planes dropped flares on an air defense battery. When the soldiers and civilians tried to put out the fires caused by the flares, the U.S. aircraft returned at 0910 this morning and dropped cluster bombs on them, wounding one soldier and damaging two vehicles.

Our ground defenses intercepted the attacking U.S. planes, which fled in fear from the region.

At 0940 today, other U.S. planes tried to approach the air defense battery. However, due to the intensive fire of the ground defenses, they failed and dropped their cluster bombs far from the battery.

At 1020 today, the U.S. planes tried for the third time to approach the air defense battery. However, they failed this time, too, dropping their cluster bombs on the main road. This cowardly aggression wounded one civilian.

PUK's Talabani Delivers Speech at KDP Congress*NC1808211293 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Aug 93*

[Excerpts] The second Congress of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] opened in Irbil yesterday morning. Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] attended the opening session. [passage omitted]

Brother Jalal Talabani delivered a speech on behalf of the PUK. He said: Brother Mas'ud Barzani, esteemed guests, dear brothers and sisters, on behalf of the PUK, I welcome this occasion, the KDP's foundation anniversary. I hope that this congress will serve the objectives of our ally, the KDP, and will make serious steps in defense and promotion of democracy, human rights, and our people's gains in liberated Kurdistan.

The PUK secretary general added: Your congress is being held under appropriate and difficult circumstances. I say appropriate circumstances because it is being held in liberated Kurdistan after the uprising of our people scored historic gains. The joint cooperation and struggle within the Kurdistan Front, in general, and between the KDP and PUK, in particular, enabled our people's revolution to achieve its historic victory.

Continuing, brother Jalal Talabani said: I say difficult circumstances because cherished parts of our people and Kurdistan [words indistinct] continue to suffer under the yoke of the bloody fascist regime. Our people continue to suffer a number of socioeconomic problems. They are

still threatened by Iraq's dictator. We must, therefore, lay down strategic bases for our joint struggle.

The brother secretary general wished the congress success in performing all tasks and duties for the sake of strengthening the victorious march of our revolution and struggle. He said that this could be done by developing the joint struggle and cooperation between all the democratic and free forces in Kurdistan and Iraq.

Addressing the opening session, brother Mas'ud Barzani welcomed the congress guests and participants. He said: We hope that our congress will gain the confidence of the masses in Kurdistan and the friends and free people in the world. We also hope that the congress will strengthen the party's ranks and unity and will [words indistinct].

Brother Barzani added: Our primary task is to defend the unity of the people of Kurdistan and the struggle of the Iraqi people in general. Our aim is to establish a federal, parliamentary, and constitutional Iraq. Brother Barzani wished the guests good times.

Says Altering Borders 'Not Realistic'*TA1708152393 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1450 GMT 17 Aug 93*

[Text] Irbil, August 17 (AA)—Jalal Talabani, the leader of the Iraqi Kurdistan Patriotic Union, said today that it was not realistic to want to alter the existing borders of countries and said the Kurdish issue could only be resolved by peaceful, democratic means.

In an interview between AA's correspondent and Talabani in his Irbil headquarters, Talabani said that they supported maintaining the integrity of Iraq.

The Kurdish leader said that they had excellent relations with Turkey and were willing to further them.

He stressed that using force could not solve the problem and the Middle East's Kurdish issue could only be resolved by peaceful and democratic means.

As Iraq's integrity is important, no relationship with the existing Iraqi Administration led by Saddam Husayn is possible, he said.

Meanwhile, the second Congress of the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party is continuing into its second day.

Turkish deputies and representatives who took part in the the Congress' opening ceremony left Irbil today.

Ercan Karakas, the coalition partner Social Democratic Populist Party's (SHP) assistant parliament speaker, told AA before his departure that the Congress was being held in a democratic atmosphere.

Rebel Radio Reports Successful al-Basrah Operation
JN1808182093 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Aug 93

[Text] As part of global arrogance plotting against Islam and Muslims everywhere, the protégé of Masonry, criminal Saddam, is committing one crime after another in the southern marshlands of Iraq against the sons of our Muslim people. This frustrated move of aggression aims to serve the Crusaders and Zionism.

In return for every unjust aggression by the 'Aflaqite, Saddamist tyranny, the mujahidin and revolutionaries all over holy Iraq are still staging resistance, especially those who are fighting dryness, hunger, and Saddamist rancor in the marshlands.

Reports by our struggling forces on the course of resistance and jihad against the 'Aflaqite faction's activity said a group of the heroic Islamic resistance forces has recently repulsed a Saddamist aggression the Saddamist forces launched against the (al-Miqta') area in the [words indistinct] in al-Basrah Governorate.

Our zealous mujahidin managed to repulse this aggression, inflicting on the forces of humiliated Saddam the following losses:

1. Killing more than 13 mercenary Saddamists, including misled officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers;
2. Completely destroying three vehicles loaded with weapons and equipment;
3. The men of the Sha'ban uprising captured several pieces of weaponry and a quantity of hardware, in addition to radio equipment.

Saddamist units affiliated with the 11th Division, 113th Brigade, took part in the aggression against the residents of the (al-Miqta') region, supported by heavy artillery.

Saddam Chairs Meeting of Ba'th Military Officials
JN1808152993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Comrade leader Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, may God protect him, has chaired a meeting of the secretaries and members of the commands of the Ba'th Party's military branches. Comrade Kamil Yasin Rashid, member of the Iraq branch command and deputy secretary of the Ba'th Party's military office, attended the meeting.

Defense Minister al-Majid Attends Tactical Exercise

JN1808152093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1158 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Mosul, 18 Aug (INA)—Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, has attended the tactical exercise

Saqr al-'Arab [the Arabian falcon], carried out with live ammunition by the heroes of the al-Amin Formation, Mahmud Force.

At the beginning of the exercise, the fighter Staff Brigadier General, commander of the al-Qa'qa' Forces, delivered a briefing on his forces' military history, the formation carrying out the exercise, and the honorable heroic assignments carried out by the fighters in defense of great Iraq as part of our brave army's unit. He also explained the objective and lessons sought from the exercise.

Staff officers of the al-Qa'qa' Forces Command delivered a detailed briefing on information pertaining to the enemy, the description of the land, and the distribution of units. A conference on orders and coordination was held, during which the fighters explained the duty and the plan developed to accomplish it with the fewest possible casualties.

The commanders attending the exercise discussed the remarks obtained from the briefing. Most remarks focused on promoting the fighters' performance by benefiting from the rich lessons learned from the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah and the great duel of the immortal Mother of Battles.

At the conclusion of the Saqr al-'Arab exercise, the defense minister said: Our attendance and interaction while watching the field exercise and our fair assessment of the soldiers are a living and continuous embodiment of training. This is because training constitutes the ultimate outcome designed to bolster the performance of all fighters, whether officers or other ranks.

The defense minister added that the remarks made by the audience and in various corps are in the interest of the soldiers, and are designed to teach something about their field performance. By promoting this performance, the fighting capability of the army of great Iraq will be enhanced. The defense minister lauded the efforts made by the soldiers participating in the exercise Saqr al-'Arab. He hailed the good performance of the diligent brigade [as received], which demonstrated its high training and endurance.

Minister: Domestic Manufacturing Supports Oil Industry

JN1808160893 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 18, INA—Minister of Oil Usamah 'Abd-al Razzaq al-Hiti has stressed that technical teams of his ministry managed to manufacture materials that keep the oil industry functioning, making up for shortages caused by the sanctions imposed on the country.

Despite the damage inflicted upon Iraq's oil installations, achievements made in the field were astonishing, the minister said.

Research and oil development centre of the ministry has managed to produce fire-fighting material that used to be imported before the imposition of the blockade in 1990.

"The technicians started to produce the material according to high international qualifications at an annual capacity of 1.5 million litres, meeting the needs of the country", said the minister.

The centre is now working on an anti-erosion material for oil wells acidification and other materials needed for local industry, he said.

He added that the ministry has given priority to maintaining the production of crude oil, benzine and lubricants.

Moreover, the ministry has launched a campaign to reconstruct what was destroyed by the U.S.-led bombardment in 1991. Relying on self-potentials, the technicians rebuilt most of the installations and completed the projects which were assigned to foreign companies before the war.

The companies left the country when the war erupted. In fact, the Iraqi technicians executed the projects with high efficiency, the minister elaborated.

Mr. al-Hiti went on to say that work is (now) to improve the oil coal project in Hadithah and the lubricants refinery in Bayji.

The ministry, in cooperation with the ministry industry commission and research centres, is working to find alternatives for some basic materials which were formerly imported.

As for alternatives found by the oil staff, the minister said that technical teams have produced key raw materials for manufacturing batteries.

They also found alternatives used in al-Dawrah refinery, saving the country more than 12 million dollars yearly. Moreover, they executed an oil refinery project in Baghdad which has a capacity of 150,000 barrel per day and a pipeline network project for transporting oil products from the production centres to storage depots in Baghdad and the provinces.

At the Bayji oil refinery department, many alternatives were produced, including wax at an annual capacity of 18,000 tonnes.

The oil training institute in Bayji started to produce simulators that used to be imported at a cost of 10,000 dollars.

In a bid to foil the economic blockade imposed on the country, oil companies have dug underground wells near oil fields to boost agricultural production.

Minister Inaugurates Irrigation Project Construction

JN1808172393 Baghdad INA in English 1420 GMT
18 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 18, INA—Minister of Industry and Minerals Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di on Monday [16

August] laid the foundation-stone of al-'Aziziyah irrigation project in Wasit Province.

The project, which is considered among Iraq's main irrigation projects, was assigned to the forestry and agricultural crops department.

According to a source at the department, the project will help reclaim some 20,000 donums (one donum-2500 square metres) of arid land, noting that the land is to be cultivated with industrial crops such as sunflower to boost the production of vegetable oils.

Housing Minister Discusses Reconstruction Projects

JN1808170393 Baghdad INA in English 1422 GMT
18 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 18, INA—Ministry of Housing and Construction has implemented a number of reconstruction projects over the period August 1992 - August 1993 at a cost of more than one billion Iraqi dinars (ID), minister of housing and construction said on Tuesday [17 August].

Quoted by a local daily, Mr. Mahmud Dhiyab al-Ahmad said the ministry has laid down a plan and taken appropriate measures to translate President Saddam Husayn's message of August 12, 1992 into work formula.

The message tackled the country's present economic conditions, asserting the need for proper management of Iraq's potentials by government bodies.

The minister added that his ministry has laid down new plans to follow up the implementation of projects, maintain and repair out-of-order machinery and boost performance and production capacity of construction material plants.

The ministry, moreover, has taken measures to boost research work and studies in the field of construction and cut down on cost and reduce waste, said Mr. al-Ahmad.

He went to say that the staff of the ministry's departments have launched a large-scale drive out-of-order equipment and machinery by relying on locally-made spare parts and materials, noting that the staff of the ministry have repaired some 5,875 machinery in one year period. [sentence as received]

Furthermore, the ministry has saved the country some ID 13 million by adopting rationalisation measures, said the ministry, adding the ministry has also saved the country some 60,378 million dollars by repairing and modifying used and out-of-order machinery and manufacturing spare parts.

Rabin Orders Enforcement of Closure in Territories

*TA1808153793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
18 Aug 93 p A4*

[Report by Eytan Rabin and ITIM]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, has ordered the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to launch an operation enforcing the closure in the territories. Rabin decided on this move after officers in the territories alerted him to numerous closure violations by local inhabitants who dodge IDF roadblocks on their way to work in Israel.

The operation has been initially launched in the Tulkarm District. Border policemen and special troops have begun detaining violators and bringing them to the Civil Administration offices, where they are fined, warned, and released.

According to military sources, the "actual closure" is felt less today when 50,000 inhabitants of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank leave for work in Israel everyday. Many laborers get to work surreptitiously. For example, in Qalqilyah yesterday, 20 laborers without permits drove into Israel on a dirt road.

While touring the Tulkarm District last week—after two soldiers had been killed near Dayr al-Ballut—officers told Rabin that at present no real closure of the territories actually exists. The prime minister's response reportedly was: "The closure will continue, and I will decide when to remove it." It is believed that if the operation in Tulkarm proves successful it will be expanded to other locations.

ITIM reports: An IDF soldier was wounded at noon yesterday in an incident with masked men in Rafah, after being hit by a shard from a bullet fired by a fellow soldier. An IDF unit spotted four masked men, members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], spraying graffiti in Rafah's Tall al-Sultan neighborhood. The four tried to flee, and one of them assaulted a soldier with an ax. Rushing to his rescue, another soldier opened fire at the assailant and moderately wounded him. A flying shard hit the assailed soldier, who also sustained moderate wounds.

The soldier and the wounded masked man were evacuated in an helicopter to Tel Hashomer Hospital. Arab sources said that another Arab youngster who was in the area was also wounded by the fire and taken to al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus.

The Arab sources reported that two other incidents took place yesterday afternoon in Gaza. At around 1700, a firebomb was thrown at an IDF position in downtown Gaza. About an hour later, a grenade was hurled at a Border Police patrol in Palestine Square in the city. There were no casualties or damage in either case.

[A report by Yosi Torpstein in the same page adds: "Several areas in the city of Gaza and in the northern Gaza Strip have been disconnected from the electric grid in the last two weeks, leaving thousands of families without electric powers and, in many cases, without water. With the approval of the Civil Administration, Israel Electricity Company disconnected whole areas without discriminating between those who did and those who did not pay their bills. Work has stopped in factories and workshops in the area, and workers have incurred heavy financial losses. The main reason for these power cuts, which increased in frequency after the Gulf war, is that many residents no longer pay their electricity bills."]

Hamas Squad Targets Former Intelligence Chief

*TA1808145993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400
GMT 18 Aug 93*

[Text] An interrogation of a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorist indicates that a Hamas terror squad planned to murder Yehoshu'a Sagi, former head of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch and Likud Knesset member. Our police affairs correspondent has learned that the Shin Bet detained the terrorist, but the other members of the squad are still at large. Special measures have been taken to guard Major General (reserves) Yehoshu'a Sagi.

Kahana Hay Group Completes Training in U.S.

TA1808181193

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 18 August carries a report by Shlomo Dror on pages 38 and 39, describing the training in Israel of a group of 30 Kahana Hay members who completed training in the United States two weeks ago. "Most of the visitors are U.S. citizens, and some are from England and Canada. Some of them were born in Arab countries, and they speak Arabic."

The group's spokesman, a USSR-born American named Lenny, describes the group's training standards as "higher than those of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]." The training included firing from a variety of guns, "such as handguns, M-16's, Kalashnikovs, machine guns, sniper rifles, and hunting guns. We were taught grenade throwing, explosive charge preparation, contact combat, navigation, and scouting. In addition, we had a survival course." Ideological background was also provided at the training camp. In this context, Lenny believes "Rabin is a traitor" whom "he would not hesitate to shoot" under certain circumstances.

Some of the group members entered Israel by the Allenby Bridge in order to check alternative accesses. They realized the security checks at the airport are tighter than at the bridge.

The group's first assignment was "taking the Temple Mount," after which they visited several historical sites as well as Jewish settlements in the territories. The

primary purpose of their training is "to stop the withdrawal from the territories." Lenny says: "I hope we will not have to fight Jews, but if we have no choice, we will fight as we were taught, with every means at our disposal. We prefer to fight Arabs. If there is autonomy, we will be there to fight every weapon-carrying Arab. We will be the autonomy police. But if Israel gets off the Golan, we will be there to fight the Syrians. We will not let them in."

Referring to "the IDF's shoddy performance," Lenny says the group used to skirt around Army roadblocks without being detected by the soldiers. "We penetrated caves used by Fatah terrorists, walked along paths used by intifadah activists. We are now familiar with several vital roads.' The group also carried out night raids into Arab villages in order to find out whether they could go undetected."

"The Kahana Hay movement members admire their leader Binyamin Kahana; some even worship him. They have little faith in the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judeaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and do not believe in cooperation with the media."

High Court Rejects Appeals on Pinhasi's Immunity

TA1908121293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Report by legal affairs correspondent Tali Nir]

[Excerpt] About 20 minutes ago the High Court of Justice rejected two appeals requesting the Knesset to hold a second ballot on the lifting of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Deputy Minister Refa'el Pinhasi's immunity. High Court President Me'ir Shamgar and Justices Aharon Barak and Eli'ezer Goldberg did not substantiate their decision. Their arguments will be given in the coming days.

The discussion of two other petitions, which are causing a storm in the political establishment, was postponed by 10 days. The justices issued an order nisi instructing the state to show cause within 10 days why the prime

minister should not dismiss Deputy Minister Pinhasi. The substantive discussion of these petitions will be held on 2 September.

It will be noted that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Attorney General Yosef Harish hold opposite views on this petition. A bridging solution may be found in the coming days, but judging by the positions presented yesterday to the court, this is improbable. The prime minister has announced unequivocally that he will not dismiss Pinhasi, because, he claimed, there is no law ordering him to do so. The attorney general believed that a high-ranking official, such as Pinhasi, cannot retain the power-wielding position of a deputy minister unless he is cleared of even a suspicion of malfeasance. [passage omitted]

Trade Figures, Prospects With China Detailed

TA1808162693 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Aug 93 p 7

[Report by Hadas Geifman]

[Excerpt] Trade between Israel and PRC can well reach \$500 million within five years. This assessment was voiced yesterday by Ehud Mataraso, vice president of the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce, at a news conference in Tel Aviv. Israel can supply China with advanced technologies and input products for agriculture, communications, electronics, chemistry, and medical equipment. China can reciprocate with high-quality, low-cost raw materials, semfinished products, textiles, household wares, tools, and so forth.

Lu Guoxian, a representative of the Shanghai Chambers of Commerce, said that 26 companies and more than 70 entrepreneurs were exhibiting in the Chinese national pavilion at the Man and His World fair in Tel Aviv.

According to Mataraso, the 1992 trade with China stood at \$59.3 million, with some \$54 million in Israeli exports. In 1991, the trade stood at \$24 million, with 23 million in exports. There is vast potential in joint projects based on Israeli expertise and Chinese marketing, he said. [passage omitted]

Officials, Opposition Discusses Election Law Amendment

Minister Explains Law's Issuance

JN1808180393 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Statement by Dr. Khalid al-Zu'bi, minister of state for legal affairs, in Amman on 18 August—recorded]

[Excerpt] The [provisional] law amending the House of Representatives' Election Law, was issued yesterday and endorsed by his majesty the king according to the provisions of Article 94 of the Constitution.

This article entitles the Council of Ministers to issue provisional laws on matters of an urgent nature when the Parliament is dissolved or not in session.

Actually, there were reasons necessitating the issuance of such a provisional law. These reasons are based on affirming equal rights among Jordanians, which Article 6 of the Constitution guarantees. They are also based on achieving justice among Jordanians, as voters, in electing their representatives, and on securing a good choice of representatives in an equitable manner that ensures equality and justice in electing the House members.

Thus, the strata of the community will be equal in the various constituencies, based on the voter's awareness and his close acquaintance with the candidate whom he will elect, so an elected candidate can represent this voter at the House in the way which best realizes his hopes and aspirations. [passage omitted]

Senate Speaker: Law Achieves Equality

JN1808153493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Statement by Senate Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi in Amman on 18 August—recorded]

[Text] For several months, Jordanians have followed the national dialogue about amending the Election Law to give each voter one vote to choose the candidate he thinks can best represent him, serve the homeland, and shoulder responsibility with sincerity, affiliation, awareness, and sacrifice in order to build the homeland, protect its security and stability, and serve its citizens.

As you know, the House of Representatives has been dissolved and the parliament is not in session. Our Constitution stipulates all the regulations needed to enable the three branches of government to function and bear their great responsibility on the basis of the Constitution and the interest of the nation. Specifically, Article 94 of the Constitution clearly stipulates the manner in which provisional laws are introduced, whether they are related to amending a law in force or putting forth a new law. That article stipulates that when the parliament is not in session, or is dissolved—and we have both conditions now, the parliament is not in session and the House of Representatives is dissolved—then, according to the

Constitution, the executive branch, represented by the Council of Ministers, can, with the king's approval, introduce provisional laws to deal with issues which require measures and cannot be delayed. This necessity is determined by the Council of Ministers, which has the right to do so.

When such an amendment, or any provisional law, is introduced, we defer to the people, especially when it concerns elections. The dissolution of the parliament or the House of Representatives is designed to go back to the voters, to the people, who have the right to choose the deputies and elect the House of Representatives. Such an amendment achieves this objective. It achieves another objective, namely, equality among all Jordanian citizens, who have the right to vote, in terms of both duties and responsibilities.

Senator Voices Support

JN1808154593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Statement by Senator Member 'Akif al-Fayiz in Amman on 18 August—recorded]

[Text] I listened to his majesty the king's speech last night, in which he discussed a number of important national issues, particularly amending the Election Law and introducing the one person-one vote system. I believe this amendment will bring about greater fairness in parliamentary representation and will produce a distinguished parliament that represents all sectors of the people.

Opposition Considers Court Challenge

JN1808142393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Aug 93 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Opponents of the new Election Law that was adopted yesterday strongly attacked the government of Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali saying they will contest the new provisional law in court and may end up boycotting the Nov. 8 elections en masse.

At a meeting they held Tuesday morning in anticipation of the announcement on changing the law, representatives from various political parties and parliamentary groups said they are pressing ahead with plans to contest the constitutionality of the new temporary law and would meet again next week to follow up on a proposal to boycott the elections.

Former Amman Deputy Faris al-Nabulsi said if the opposition decides to "fight the elections," they might do so on a joint ticket which would cover the Kingdom's 20 voting zones.

"We will first take this case to court," said Mr. al-Nabulsi, who attended the meeting. "We will also decide whether to fight the elections on joint tickets."

The meeting, which was organised by and took place at former Deputy Layth Shubaylat's house, was attended by representatives of the Jordanian Ba'th Arab Socialist Party, the Jordanian Popular Unity Party, the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party, the Jordan People's Democratic party, the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, al-Yaqazah Party, and the Arab Ba'th Progressive Party as well as several independent political personalities.

Mr. al-Nabulsi, who spoke to the Jordan Times after the news of the change was announced, said that this government "is not qualified to administer the elections and should have resigned" before taking such a step.

A spokesman for the IAF who spoke on condition of anonymity said his group will work with the opposition to adopt a united position on whether to boycott the elections.

"We will continue contacts with other political forces and adopt a joint position that we consider to be beneficial to the country," he said.

"The IAF will be part of the decision reached by the nationalist forces," he said, before His Majesty the King delivered his speech to the nation.

Other IAF sources told the Jordan Times that the front's 16-member political office, the highest authority of the front, held a meeting Monday night during which at least seven members, led by former Speaker of the Lower House 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyyat, supported boycotting the elections if a new law was introduced.

"Had there been a dialogue (on the need for change), which respected the people and institutions of Jordan, most people would have accepted the result with open minds," a senior IAF source said. "First, it was promised that a dialogue would precede the decision. That promise never materialised and all of a sudden the (Lower) House was dissolved. Is this democracy?"

Early reports, however, indicated that the moderates among IAF leaders may have been positively influenced by the King's address and special emphasis on the IAF's "historic responsibility" to rise up to the name they had chosen for their party.

A source close to IAF thinking said that several IAF moderates were "influenced positively" by the King's plea for "assessing the meaning of success or failure of our march." The source said that the IAF may choose to take up the responsibility placed upon it by the King and "avoid a confrontation over the law."

"The King's clear allusion to outside pressures on the Kingdom may also moderate the front's next move," the source added.

But while the opposition to the change had made its position clear, proponents of the one-person, one-vote system were equally convinced that the change has more advantages than disadvantages.

A former deputy and Cabinet minister said he believed that the change will make the voter more conscious of the value of his or her vote.

"In the old law people used to vote indiscriminately," he said. "The change, however, will force the voter to think, consider and weigh out his or her choice because his or her vote is now more precious."

The former minister and others who support the new law believe that the opposition to the change is triggered mainly by "personal interests" of the opponents. "They will all be affected negatively by the change and that is why they are working against it," the former deputy said.

But the proponents did not spare the government from criticism either. "The government was indecisive and did not explain the reasoning behind the change to the public properly," said a supporter of the one-person, one-vote system. "Now it has no choice but to realise its failure and work on all fronts to explain the new law and its effects so that the public would be fully aware of what is happening."

Circassian Community Split

JN1808165393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
18 Aug 93 p 3

[Special to the JORDAN TIMES by Tariq Ayyub]

[Text] Political opinions in the Circassian community, a minority of about 45,000 to 50,000 which is allotted two seats in the 80-seat Lower House of Parliament, appear split over the newly enacted one-person, one-vote formula, with one side viewing it as an opportunity to elect the choice of the majority, and the other seeing it as a threat to national unity.

According to the 1986 Election Law, voters could choose a number of candidates equal to the seats assigned for each constituency. The one-person one-vote scheme, however, gives each voter the right to cast only one vote, thus limiting the swapping or doubling of the weight of votes.

The majority of eligible voters in the Circassian community are not affiliated with Jordan's legalised parties. That is why supporters of the new formula maintain that one-person, one-vote would mean that a concentrating of their voting power would bring to Parliament the choice of the majority rather than Islamists and other politically-affiliated Circassians.

"The two deputies representing the Circassian community, Mansur Murad and Dawud Qujaq, were not elected by us, but by leftists and Muslim Brotherhood voters," said Jawdat Nashkhu, a Circassian journalist.

Mr. Murad, an ex-member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), and Dawud Qujaq, a Muslim Brotherhood member, were elected to the two Circassian seats in parliament in the 1989 election. Many Circassians believe that the two deputies benefited from the votes of non-Circassians.

Former House deputy Qujaq opposes the one-person one-vote system and agrees that the Muslim Brotherhood and the leftists won the Circassian seats in the 1989 election mainly because of "the non-Circassian voters."

In the third and fifth constituencies, where Mr. Murad and Mr. Qujaq won their seats, each voter had five votes. This factor gave non-Circassians an opportunity to vote for Circassian candidates in addition to other candidates. Thus the strategy of swapping votes led to determining the winners.

Mr. Qujuq told the Jordan Times that "with the new (one-person, one-vote) law political parties will find it difficult to win minority seats."

Ali Kassay, a Circassian scholar, supported Mr. Nashku's argument that it was non-Circassian voters who brought Murad and Qujaq to Parliament. He added that "the Circassians would have a golden opportunity to elect candidates from their own camp."

Those who reject the one-person, one-vote system do so on national grounds. They believe that the Circassian deputies represent not only their community, but the nation as a whole. Therefore, they maintain, non-Circassian voters should be eligible to elect Circassian candidates as well. They add that this right would not be possible under the one-person, one-vote formula.

"The new law will weaken national unity and turn Jordan into ghettos with each voter seeking good for his community, not the country," said Tujan Faysal, a Circassian and leading feminist who ran unsuccessfully in the 1989 election.

According to Mrs. Faysal, the law will make each citizen think of his/her own community and thus open the gates wide to the disintegration of the Jordanian society. "The law will give tribes and clans advantages to decide the winners of the coming election and draw the future of our society on communal grounds; we should prevent them from fishing in troubled waters," warned Mrs. Faysal.

Samir Husayn, a Circassian shopkeeper, believed that amending the current law would create barriers between Jordanians. "The criteria for voting would become whether the candidate belongs to my community or not, so community wins and Jordan suffers," he said.

Editorial Praises Law

JN1808095593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
18 Aug 93 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "The Amendment That Embodies Equality"]

[Text] With all the certainty, confidence, and deep feelings of responsibility, His Majesty King Husayn finished the discussions and national dialogue over the Election Law that have been held in the last few months. Yesterday, he approved a provisional law stipulating the amendment of the Election Law. The amendment was

presented by the government, which has been delegated the responsibility of holding free and honest general parliamentary elections.

The new provisional Election Law is inspired by the spirit of the Jordanian Constitution, which secures the equality of all citizens in terms of rights and duties. Moreover, this law is inspired by Jordan's domestic circumstances and the current realities of a region still engrossed in political labors whose outcome has not been assured.

Hence, the new provisional law secures every Jordanian citizen's right to vote for the candidate that he believes can best represent him, is most capable of representing him, and embodies his national interests. This new law gives each citizen equal rights, regardless of his voting district and the number of candidates in that district. It allows each citizen to vote for one candidate who he feels is the most capable of representing the people of the homeland.

King Husayn's call on his larger family yesterday was full of sincerity. It urged the creation of a model homeland—the homeland of continuous goodness and sacrifice—in which all its sons, from all origins and lineages, will meet in order to embody a genuine democratic image and support the honorable march toward preserving human rights and triumphing for life, freedom, and justice.

Today, we, in Jordan, are not only standing at the threshold of an important stage in our national life, as new general parliamentary elections are scheduled to be held, we are also standing at the thresholds of two major projects. The first is the completion of the structure of unionist and democratic Arab Jordan, and the second is the rebuilding of the pan-Arab project—the Great Arab Revolt project—with a new formula and modern appeal.

King Meets Pro-Iraq Delegation, Stresses Democracy

JN1808185293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Today at the Royal Hashemite Court, His Majesty King Husayn received the Arab Popular Forces Conference delegation. Delegation members expressed their appreciation for his majesty's pan-Arab role, wise leadership, and unstinting efforts to promote the Arab nation's awakening and progress. They praised Jordan's pan-Arab stand and its steadfastness in the face of challenges.

His majesty emphasized democracy and political multiplicity, the freedom of Arab citizens, and their basic rights and dignity, which establish a new reality to effect the nation's progress. His majesty noted that the world is changing around us, and that our nation is living in very difficult circumstances, facing difficult challenges. These challenges require it to hold dialogue and contacts to rebuild and renew its relations in the interest of its people.

Delegation leader Sa'd Qasim Hammudi stressed the need for Arab solidarity and the unity of Arab causes. He briefed his majesty on the task of the delegation and explained the suffering of the Arab people of Iraq as a result of the blockade, especially the Iraqi children, old people, and the sick.

The meeting was attended by Khalid al-Karaki, chief of the Royal Court.

Prime Minister Receives Delegation

JN1808152493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has affirmed Jordan's concern for, and its principled, firm commitment to, its pan-Arab position and support for its Arab brethren, regardless of the difficulties and sacrifices.

During his reception today of a delegation representing the [Baghdad-based, pro-Iraq] Arab Popular Forces Conference at his office today, al-Majali said: We will not stop supporting our brothers. We will support the efforts aimed at lifting the blockade imposed on the fraternal people of Iraq.

The prime minister stressed the need to restore Arab solidarity and the unity of Arab ranks, especially in this phase which is witnessing the crystallization of the new world order, so that Arabs will not be forced to accept something they do not want. This view, he said, is constantly advocated by His Majesty King Husayn.

Al-Majali said Jordan always seeks to achieve Arab solidarity and that its hand will always be extended to support every sincere Arab effort to achieve that goal. He pointed out that restoring Jordan's Arab ties will not be done at the expense of anyone and will not be directed against anyone, but will be employed to put things in order among all Arabs.

Delegates of the Arab Popular Forces Conference voiced appreciation for the pan-Arab position taken by Jordan—king, people, and government—toward the Arab causes, at the head of which is the Palestine question and the blockade imposed on the people of Iraq.

Yemeni Vice President al-Bid Arrives for Talks

JN1908071493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid arrived in Amman tonight on a short visit to the Kingdom during which he will be received by His Majesty King Husayn. Al-Bid will also hold talks with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and ranking officials on bilateral relations and the current Arab situation.

He was received at the airport by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the chief of the Royal Court, a number of ministers and officials, and the Yemeni ambassador in Amman.

'Ali Salim al-Bid made the following statement to our political affairs correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab:

[Begin recording] [Al-Bid] Yemeni-Jordanian relations are a model for brotherly Arab relations. His Majesty King Husayn familiarized us with the spirit of Arabism. We believe that our relations with Jordan are good, and we wish to develop these relations in the future. We are on a short visit to Jordan to see our brothers and meet with His Majesty King Husayn and the brother Crown Prince.

[Dhiyab] Arab reconciliation is a joint Jordanian-Yemeni concern. How can this issue be pushed forward?

[Al-Bid] We do not know to which point we are [word indistinct] about this issue. We always support dialogue. It is a prelude to understanding one another better, to determining our points of agreement, and, if we differ, why we have these differences. Sometimes you find that differences are based on illusions. However, what unites us is the fact that we are one Arab nation with a common religion, common aspirations, common history, and common concerns and sufferings. Unfortunately, however, the cart is always placed before the horse. The way out of this is to hold a dialogue with one another.

Columnist Laments Assassination Plot Against King

JN1808154893 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Aug 93 p 26

["I Say a Word" column by 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Umar: "The Policy We Reject"]

[Text] Before I start writing, I pray to God that the Islamic Liberation Party is innocent of last April's crime against His Majesty King Husayn's life. Perhaps, the circumstances chosen for the execution of the crime are by themselves a large condemnation of the crime and its plotters. Is there ingratitude greater than this? Is it reasonable for any sane human being to agree to plot against the good man who built on the land of Mu'tah a great educational institution that immortalized Mu'tah and all its heroic meanings, of which our history is very proud? Is it possible to exploit this pioneering leader's presence to patronize a students' graduation ceremony, and then turn this noble meeting between a father, who has not stopped making sacrifices for many years, and his sons, who are still receiving his generosity, into the worst form of ingratitude and impertinence?

It is impossible, not only because King Husayn was keen on every step our universities and their graduates made or because the humane King Husayn is used to extending his hand to every Jordanian who needs help, but because, during the worst circumstances, leader King Husayn was able to preserve Jordan's dignity and that of its people. He was always able to place national and pan-Arab interest above all other considerations.

We have experienced so many assassinations, coups, and jumps into the political vacuum. Our hearts are bleeding. These developments were not confined to Jordan but were

rife in all the Arab countries where political romance and conspiratorial hands were active in the dark.

Today, as our democracy has taken only a few steps on the 1,000-mile road, we are supposed to unify ourselves and our efforts to push this experiment forward with all our strength. We ask: Who will benefit from attacks on the leader of this experiment? In whose interest are attacks launched against the only Arab leader who said no to the vicious elements that brought Arab armies to fight on behalf of Zionism? And last, but not least, and while the peace negotiations are continuing, who will benefit from attacks on the leader who refused to concede an inch and refused to assume the role of the PLO?

May God protect you, O man with the big heart. May God protect you and keep you as a great leader and nationalist of whom the Jordanian family and the Arab nation are proud. I again pray to God that the Islamic Liberation Party is innocent of this crime.

King Attends Military Training Graduation Ceremony

JN1808133293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] This morning, His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, patronized the graduation of a special parachuting course for students of the military wing of Mu'tah University. His Highness Prince 'Ali Bin-Husayn took part in the parachuting exercise.

His majesty the supreme commander was received upon arrival by Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In a speech to welcome his majesty, the Special Forces commander voiced pride in his majesty the supreme commander's patronage of the course, which includes a

new group of students of the military wing of Mu'tah University. These students have completed shock troops and parachuting courses as well as the scheduled training program.

His majesty the king watched a parachuting exercise by the course participants. He also watched a freefall by a group of Special Forces members.

His majesty the supreme commander bestowed parachutists wings on the graduates. His majesty shook hands with the parents of the graduates who attended the ceremony and congratulated them on their children's graduation.

The graduation ceremony was attended by his majesty's children Prince 'Abdallah, Princess Haya, Prince Hashim, and Prince Hamzah; Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, his majesty's military secretary; the assistant Chief of Staff for Manpower, Mu'tah University vice president for military affairs; and a number of Armed Forces officers.

'Strict Security' at Plant Stops AL-BILAD Press Run

JN1808203093 Amman AL-BA'TH in Arabic 18 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] As AL-BA'TH was on its way to the print house, strict security measures were observed around the SAWT AL-SHA'B building. It was revealed later that the matter concerns the newspaper AL-BILAD, which is printed at the SAWT AL-SHA'B presses.

The reason for this measure, apparently taken to stop its printing, is not known.

AL-BA'TH regrets this measure, which constitutes a serious violation of the freedom of the press in this democratic age and hopes the matter will be clarified. The question is: Does this measure agree with, or violate, the Press and Publication Law and the freedom of the press?

Seven Israeli Soldiers Reported Killed in Bombing**Islamic Resistance Claims Attack***NC1908075793 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Aug 93*

[Text] Islamic Resistance fighters are continuing their jihad for the liberation of the land from the filth of the Zionist occupation and its agents. An Islamic Resistance group has detonated an explosive device near an agent militia infantry patrol inside the occupied border strip.

The Islamic Resistance issued a statement in which it said: The Islamic Resistance announces its determination to continue the jihad to liberate its occupied land and defend its valiant people despite the Zionist threats. The Martyr 'Ali Taha Group of the Islamic Resistance detonated an explosive device on the road leading to al-Jamus as an enemy infantry patrol was passing at 0630 yesterday, killing or wounding the patrol members.

The Islamic Resistance pledged to its late Imam Khomeini, its leader Sayyid Khamene'i, and its pure martyrs to continue on their path until Israel is eliminated.

The radio of the Israeli agent militia has admitted the operation, saying that an explosive device went off as a militia patrol was passing in the occupied strip. The radio explained that the explosion took place near a militia position in al-Jamus, which is in the western sector of the occupied border strip. The radio claimed that the explosion caused no casualties.

Operation Detailed*NC1908080993 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0730 GMT 19 Aug 93*

[Text] The agent militia sources have admitted that seven Zionist soldiers were killed and four others were wounded in a powerful explosion as a Zionist patrol was moving in the Shihin area on the al-Naqurah road, about 10 km from the Palestinian border. This was followed by an ambush Hizballah fighters laid for a patrol that arrived in the area to supply reinforcements.

Our correspondent in the south reports that three enemy helicopters landed at the site of the operation. One helicopter evacuated eight dead and wounded soldiers. Three ambulances arrived from al-Naqurah. One of these evacuated four dead soldiers.

Our correspondent adds that Zionist officers inspected the site of the heroic operation. He noted that the operation targeted a Merkava tank. Six soldiers were burned. They were on a mission to search for explosive devices in the area when the bomb exploded.

Israel Warned Against Retaliation*NC1908075093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0730 GMT 19 Aug 93*

[Text] A reliable source of the Islamic Resistance has warned the Zionist forces against shelling the peaceful villages and towns in the south to retaliate for the heroic

operation carried out by the resistance fighters against a military patrol inside Lebanese territory. The source said that residents of the Zionist settlements will not be safe if our villages come under shelling.

Cabinet Voices Support for Defense Minister's Policy*NC1808194093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Aug 93*

[Statement by Information Minister Michel Samahah, following a regular meeting of the Council of Ministers at Government House in Beirut on 18 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers this afternoon held its weekly meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. At the beginning of the meeting, the prime minister welcomed State Minister Jean 'Ubayd, referring to his qualities and efficiency. The Council of Ministers then wished speedy recovery to Expatriates Minister Dr. Ridah Wahid.

The prime minister then reviewed the outcome of the expanded Lebanese-Syrian summit meeting. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers then considered the media campaigns surrounding the defense minister and issued the following statement:

Taking note of the campaign targeting Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul and the government's defense policy, the Council of Ministers categorically denies the information reported in editorials and articles published by certain media about the defense minister and his policy in managing his duties. The Council of Ministers voices confidence regarding the manner in which the government's defense policy is being implemented by the defense minister and his ministry, and expresses solidarity with the minister in all the measures he took within the scope of his powers.

The Council of Ministers warns against media campaigns against the government's policy on national defense issues at a time when the country needs more than ever to safeguard the local solidarity demonstrated during the recent Israeli aggression. [passage omitted]

Political 'Mistakes' in Army Deployment Viewed*NC1808141793 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 10 Aug 93 p 1*

[Report by political editor]

[Text] The Army is in the south. And why not, since this is its right, duty, and responsibility?

It was there originally but the political double standards that governed the decision to deploy it, for the first time, in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] operational area nearly led to a catastrophe. Efforts continue to avert such a catastrophe and cut the losses.

The story, as gathered from several sources, shows a host of political mistakes, miscalculations, and a lack of understanding of the significance and repercussions in such a step. The Army finally deployed in four positions that have nothing to do with UNIFIL.

While the Army Command's statement last night [9 August] settled a dangerous controversy about the mission of the Army units sent to the UNIFIL operations area, it also was the end of two weeks of nonsensical announcements that exposed the fragility of the political establishment and its probable inclination to cause an unnecessary problem for the Army.

The decision made by the three top government leaders—of one mind for the first time, not disagreeing as is their wont—was made hastily and without proper preparation. This proves that domestic (personal) considerations caused this decision to be made by the three leaders, who assumed that the opportunity had come and that it was time to get rid of and disarm Hizballah; that is, if they had not received a U.S. signal to do just that.

The preparation to implement this decision was also arbitrary. UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali was contacted, although he is not directly concerned, or at least he is not the sole concerned authority. The Lebanese Higher Defense Council was convened, although it is not the authority that has the power to order the Army to deploy in the south. Only the cabinet has that power.

Until that moment Damascus had not been consulted, and Syrian officials heard the news from the newspapers. Only afterwards were the first "early signs" of the official position given to them after discussions about the issue with the United Nations had been completed. Meanwhile, the three top government leaders were speaking of a guaranteed Syrian approval of this step, regardless of the details.

Much to the surprise of the Lebanese military, during discussions the United Nations seemed to approve the deployment of the Army in the UNIFIL operations area, which had been unacceptable to the United Nations a year ago and, indeed, had been unacceptable since UNIFIL deployed in Lebanon in 1978.

These discussions were accompanied by Israeli messages urging—or perhaps demanding—that the Lebanese Army disarm Hizballah and halt all resistance operations. The Lebanese response, however, set things right: The Army will never be a border guard for Israel and will not accept that role.

At this juncture the course of discussions was altered and the United Nations again clung to its old conditions, namely refusing to allow the Lebanese Army to deploy in its operational area unless the Army placed itself under UN command. Otherwise, UNIFIL would withdraw and some of the nations contributing units to it would begin thinking of recalling them.

At this point it became a great risk for Lebanon to implement its decision. Conversely, a retraction would be a serious setback because citizens of the south had wagered on the Army's deployment as an additional prop to their steadfastness. The lesser of two evils was chosen and the Army deployed near, but not inside, the UNIFIL area and not under its command.

It was a very tricky agreement: The Army did not want to hand over its command to anyone else, do without UNIFIL, stop the resistance, or take into custody resistance fighters detained by UNIFIL while trying to fire Katyushas at the Israeli enemy. The Army wanted only to boost the southern citizens' steadfastness, encourage them to stay on their land, and play a policeman's role whenever a quarrel or armed altercation occurred among them.

On the other hand, UNIFIL did not want to alter its mandate, mission, or operational area. Furthermore, it did not want the Lebanese Army to deploy in its area because it was a possible Israeli target and would turn UNIFIL into a target as well.

Consequently, the deployment (or rather the stationing of troops) was limited to Qana, Jwayya, Dirdghayya, and Bi'r al-Sanasil (as AL-SAFIR reported yesterday). These areas are more than 500 meters from the positions of UNIFIL, which wished to avoid attacks on itself whenever Lebanese Army positions were shelled.

The Army Command announced in a statement issued last night that "the deployment was designed to boost the southern citizens' steadfastness against Israeli aggression and avert security incidents inside the villages. There is no truth to the reports that it was directed against any party, particularly the resistance against the occupation, which remains the citizens' natural right until the occupation ends."

Thus ended the chapter of political errors. The facts, starting with the recent Israeli aggression, will now lend themselves to different interpretations. Thanks to ignorance (if not something more serious) Israel nearly achieved some of the objectives it could not accomplish by force when it assumed that its attacks could undermine the Lebanese people's and Army's unity. The Christians in the south suffered from the attacks in the south the same as the Muslims. Lebanese unity remained intact. An Israeli attempt to infiltrate the domestic front through some "Lebanese Forces" members was foiled and the people concerned were arrested. Six trucks of weapons and ammunition were seized.

Has this thorny file been closed? Has the country surmounted this dilemma? The answer depends on the extent and form of the political errors that will be made in the future during a delicate stage of the bilateral peace negotiations that are scheduled to resume next month.

Fadlallah Discusses Cease-Fire, Army Deployment

NC1808141393 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that the United States stepped in to arrange a cease-fire at the end of the weeklong aggression in order to protect Israeli interests, since Israel's justification for the aggression was quickly fading.

Fadlallah said that there is no such thing as a Syrian-Iranian-Israeli-U.S. sponsorship of a cease-fire. What happened was simply a face-saving measure, he stated.

If the impasse continues, Fadlallah said, an Arab-Israeli war will take place, only to be followed by a settlement in accordance with Israeli-U.S. conditions.

Concerning the Army's deployment in the south, Fadlallah said that the resistance is not against this deployment in principle. He wondered about the security and political generosity exhibited by Israel and the United States as they promptly agreed to the Army's deployment. He said that recent events mean that Israel, which could not end the resistance, wants Lebanon to do that job for it.

Concerning the peace negotiations, Fadlallah said that America is in a quandary and that the 11th round will not go anywhere unless Israel presents concessions, since the Arabs have nothing more to concede.

Names Proposed for Head of Joint Council With Syria

NC1808190893 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] The results of the expanded Lebanese-Syrian summit, which was held in Damascus last Monday [16 August], are still the most prominent subject of conversation in political meetings and deliberations. Measures are being implemented which are aimed at deepening coordination between the two countries to avoid problems, such as those that accompanied the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon operations areas, and the rumored Syrian displeasure about Lebanese haste in this regard.

Among the measures the two countries are working to implement, is the structuring of the Higher Lebanese-Syrian Council and the appointing of a secretary general for it. Within this framework, Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr left for Damascus to hold talks with senior Syrian officials, led by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. Some reports said that the Lebanese Government is proposing Nasri al-Khuri, Dr. George Dib, Albert 'Asi, and former Minister Shawqi Fakhuri for the post of secretary general. The reports add that Nasri al-Khuri has the best chance of getting the job. If Syria gives its approval, the appointment decision will be issued within the next few hours.

Information Minister Michel Samahah said, after meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi, that the Council of Ministers will not discuss the appointment of the secretary general of the Higher Council. He denied any knowledge of names proposed for this post.

Afghanistan

UN Envoy Arrives for Talks on Tajikistan

LD1808203293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state in the Afghan Foreign Ministry, met with Ismat Kittani, the UN secretary general's special envoy for Tajikistan, in his office this afternoon. During the meeting—which was also attended by the esteemed Hamed Karzay, deputy minister of foreign affairs—talks were conducted on resolving issues related to the situation in Tajikistan, providing suitable opportunities for the return of Tajik refugees to that country, and the active participation of the United Nations in this respect.

According to another report, Ismat Kittani, the UN secretary general's envoy for Tajikistan, arrived this afternoon for a working visit and for talks with related Afghan authorities about Tajikistan's problems. Officials of the Foreign Ministry met him at Kabul International Airport.

Supreme Court Appointments Announced

LD1808203493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] The press office of the Presidency reported to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that the following appointments have been made to the Afghan Supreme Court by separate decrees of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani: the esteemed Najibollah Qaderi as head of the Court Martial of the Armed Forces and assistant president of the Supreme Court with the rank of the General of the Army; the esteemed Abdol Qahar Ghaleb as head of Conflict of Jurisdiction and Judges Court; the esteemed Abdol Ghafur Amiri as head of Public Security Court; the esteemed Atiqollah Raufi as head of the secretariat of the High Council of the Supreme Court; and the esteemed Mohammad Omar Momand as head of judiciary inquiries.

India

Rao on Russia's Withdrawal From Engine Deal

BK1808093093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] The prime minister today reiterated India's commitment to achieving self-reliance in high technology, particularly in areas like space, which have a major bearing on our economic and social development. He was replying to the calling-attention motion moved by Mr. N.A. Balam, CPI [Communist Party of India], and 50 others in the Rajya Sabha on the situation arising out of the scrapping of the cryogenic rocket engine deal by Russia.

Mr. Narasimha Rao said our space engineers have been working for developing our own design on the cryogenic engine. He said though Russia has expressed its inability to fulfill its obligation to the Indian ambassador in

Moscow, it has, however, expressed its readiness to hold further consultations with India in the matter. He assured the members that if the agreement cannot be implemented, New Delhi is confident of our space scientists and engineers to be able to develop our own technologies. Outlining the circumstances forcing Russia to withdraw from the agreement, he said in May last year the USA had imposed embargo on ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] and Glavkosmos for two years, saying that the agreement violates the Missile Technology Control Regime [MTCR]. The prime minister said both India and Russia had consistently pointed out that the agreement of 1991 does not come under the purview of the MTCR since the intended use of the cryogenic technology was only for peaceful purposes.

Soon after Mr. Balam initiated the discussion, the prime minister intervened and clarified that the contract is not off at this stage, as Russia has only communicated through a nonpaper [as heard], which is not a final official communication. He said it is untimely to assume that the agreement does not exist. Making another intervention, the prime minister observed that it is because of the government's efforts that the Russian president had reiterated their commitment to supply the cryogenic engines during his visit in January this year.

Mr. Balam said the issue involves not only Indo-Russian relations but also Indo-U.S. ties. Appreciating the government's stand, he wanted to know why the United States was intervening and pressurizing against transfer of technology to India. He demanded a general discussion on the changed international situation, as he felt there is a need for change in India's foreign policy.

An AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] member, criticizing the U.S. interfering in the internal affairs of our country, observed that the government is not reacting adequately.

A BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] member said that the interference by U.S. is because of the fear that India will be developing satellite launch capability to compete in the international market. The debate is continuing.

Editorial Analyzes Failure of Cryogenic Rocket Deal

BK1808145393 Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Aug 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Cryogenic Capitulation"]

[Text] Russia's decision to freeze the rocket deal with India under intense U.S. pressure, aside from affecting this country's space programme, put a question mark on the reliability of Russia as a collaborator in technology development. Russia has reneged on its commitment at the last moment. This was unexpected and caught the India off-guard. Of course, New Delhi cannot be blamed for going by the assurances given by none other than Russian President Boris Yeltsin during his visit to Delhi early this year. Notwithstanding the Russian government's severe resource crunch and its consequent vulnerability to Western pressure, Mr. Yeltsin's volte face

on the issue underlines the changes effected in Moscow's political perspective. And even though Mr. Yuri Kopyev, the Russian space agency director-general, has since then justified the cancellation of the deal on purely commercial grounds, the obvious capitulation of Russia before America cannot be concealed. This is bound to affect Russia's relations with the developing countries—and not only with India. The scuttling of the deal should have put India's burgeoning friendship with the U.S. to test, but it would not because the government of India is in no mood to make an issue of this. Washington has once again made evident in unmistakable terms that under the new world order, it alone has the right to decide the level of technological development a Third World country would be allowed to attain. More, America will decide the nature of trade between two sovereign countries. Its objections to the rocket deal on grounds of preventing their possible military use by India are worthless. Instead, by misusing the Missile Technology Control Regime to ban technologies to which this embargo is not applicable the U.S. has revealed its transparent aim to stymie India's emergence as a competitive power in the lucrative space technology market. This policy is both immoral and unfortunate. No doubt, the cancellation of the deal would seriously jeopardise the country's hope of having an autonomous space launch capability by the turn of the century. Our GSLV [Geostationary Launch Vehicle] program is also likely to be delayed by at least 10 years, notwithstanding the efforts by our scientists to have us believe otherwise. In fact, the latter's optimism is not only misplaced but also misleading. Intriguingly, even after the Russians have left no doubt that in compliance with American wishes they are not going to let us have the cryogenic engine technology, our government and the ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] want to give the impression that the deal is still on. ISRO chairman Prof. U.R. Rao has gone a step further and announced that an indigenous cryo engine can be developed within five years. Only a year ago, Mr. Rao justified Russian collaboration on the project on the ground that developing the technology on our own would take long. What is more, knowing that once the Russian deal came through ISRO had abandoned all efforts to develop its own engine in the mid-80s. Mr. Rao's assertions about an indigenous engine in five years is preposterous. In fact, if media reports are to be believed, even the one-tonne engine claimed to have been fabricated has, during a test, gone up in smoke. Why this attempt to hoodwink the public then? Indeed, now that the rocket deal has been truly buried, it is time that the government made a sober assessment of how ISRO had been functioning. Useful lessons need to be drawn from the failed cryo deal to avoid similar fiascos in future. But then why blame ISRO? The Union government nowadays puts less stress on self-reliant science and technology development aims of the nation.

Political Aspects of Kashmir Crisis Viewed

BN1808025693 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
9 Aug 93 p 6

[By Pushp Saraf]

[Text] New Delhi—Many myths have exploded as the crisis has deepened in the Kashmir Valley. The first of them is that the return of K.V. Krishna Rao as the Governor of the state along with a host of officials having political patronage would help establish a better rapport with the local people. Another is that placing Jammu and Kashmir under the charge of one minister would ensure better coordination.

Life in the Capital city of Srinagar is paralysed. People are up in arms against the killing of three members of a family. There has never been such prolonged demonstration of people's anger. "This is the culmination of people's anguish over killing of innocent persons," claim militants' sympathisers.

Looked at from the administrative viewpoint this shows a complete breakdown of the communication with the people. The view that the induction of "popular" officers like Wajahat Habibullah would help lies in pieces. Wajahat is the Divisional Commissioner of the Valley. He was sent to the Valley from the cosy post of secretary of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation to legitimise his role in Kashmir affairs in which he was interfering.

Luckily it is the people's demonstration. The same people had revolted earlier against the militants in protest against the rape of a Kashmiri pandit woman and her daughter. Intensity this time is more which indicates that official agencies have not been able to counter propaganda over custody deaths.

Krishna Rao is more fond of dwelling in the past than trying to come to terms with the grim local scenario. Somehow the ghost of dismissal of the Farooq Abdullah Government continues to haunt him. Even in his Independence Day address the Governor condemned the dissolution of the state Assembly way back in 1990. The fact is that Farooq Abdullah has once again receded into the background after having engineered the exit of Girish Chandra Saxena as the Governor with the induction of his friend Rajesh Pilot as the Minister of State for Home (Internal Security). Another fact is that not even the National Conference wanted the revival of the Assembly after some of its well-known leaders broke away from the party under the threat of militants.

It is mainly his style of functioning that has triggered a popular agitation in Jammu Region as well. This is against the construction of a road to Vaishnodevi. People have pulled down shutters in protest in the prosperous town of Katra. Obviously many officials who can sense the public mood given their vast experience either have no say or are sidelined.

To make matters worse, conflicting signals continue to emerge from the Centre. Top secessionist leaders including Syed Ali Shah Geeyni, Abbas Ansari and Abdul Ghani, were stopped by the Government at the last minute from going on Haj pilgrimage. This was done following reports that a meeting of Kashmiri leaders, including those from across the Line of Control, was planned in Saudi Arabia to criticise India.

Rajesh Pilot later retraced the steps. He telephoned these leaders and apologised to them. This leaves observers wondering why these leaders were stopped if the Government had to offer regrets later.

The Centre also continues to fiddle with the appointment of officials. Officers like Ashok Patel have already been taken off from the Valley where they spent the greater part of their career. Those who have been put in charge of the Border Security Force (BSF) may be good officers but their experience of the peculiar situation of the Valley is not enough. The manner in which BSF jawans were virtually pushed into a death-trap in Ashudhar Dassa in Doda District of Jammu Region is a telling example of bad planning. Ten jawans were killed and five injured in an encounter as they were pushed into an unfamiliar terrain.

The situation in the valley in particular has apparently come in handy for political leaders to step up their campaign under the banner of Kashmir Freedom Conference, a conglomeration of 23 parties. Reports reaching here say that two meetings of the conference have already taken place and its constitution has been nearly finalised with the objective of applying pressure on the Centre to declare the Valley disputed territory.

Addressing himself to the question of the deteriorating situation in the Valley, former Governor Jagmohan makes a point in the just released enlarged version of his book, "My Frozen Turbulence in Kashmir". He says: "The truth is that small minds are holding the stage when constructive, courageous and committed leadership is needed."

Commentary Defends Army Role in Kashmir

BK1808130993 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Commentary by Colonel Anil Butt, defense analyst]

[TEXT] The Indian Army has been operating in Kashmir since 27th October, 1947. To be precise, [word indistinct] after the accession of the state of Jammu and Kashmir with India, the first infantry units landed at Srinagar to expel the Pakistan-aided tribal hordes, who had raided the valley on behalf of Pakistan, to annex the state forcibly. The plundering and looting of Kashmiris was stopped only when the Indian Army units arrived and chased tribal raiders out of the valley. It is indeed ironical that the same Pakistan and its supporters and militants, including a section of the obliging press, has been screaming itself hoarse about the so-called atrocities and human rights violations by the Indian Army.

The army has been in Kashmir in sizable force ever since 1947, and there was no allegation against it until 1990, when militancy came in the valley in a big way. As the army started getting involved more and more in antimilitant activities, militants started suffering repeated reverses at its hand. The allegations against the army also

increased both in numbers and intensity. These allegations have been made as a part of a well-planned and premeditated strategy jointly made by the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan, the militants, and their old friends and political superiors in the valley.

To implement this strategy, the Pak official media and the Kashmir-based local press worked overtime and in tandem with each other, and fabricated and incredible stories were planted. Aims of this disinformation campaign were to internationalize the Kashmir issue, to produce and aggravate the sense of alienation amongst the Kashmiris, to demoralize the army and other security forces acting against the militants in Kashmir, and to tarnish their image in the eyes of their own countrymen and in the international community alike, and to solicit sympathy of Western nations who are quite sensitive to human rights issues.

Hizbul Mojahidin, the main pro-Pakistan militant group operating in the valley has issued dictates to the local people to direct them that whenever the army carried out operations in their areas, they should go to the office of the deputy commissioner and superintendent of police of the district in a procession and lodge false complaints against the army. The militants have threatened the locals with dire consequences if they ever fail to carry out their dictates. Many Kashmiris have been punished by the militants even for minor infringement of this dictate.

Such disinformation campaign and false propaganda has to be seen in this context only. The atrocities and human rights violations committed by the militants and their supporters against the Kashmiris themselves are far too many, glaring, and excessive to be ignored. Some of these need to be recounted. Grenades lobbed by the militants on the security forces and their moving vehicles mostly missed the targets and hit the local people. Hundreds of young women and girls have been raped and forcibly married to the militants. Number of doctors have been killed simply because they refused to carry out abortions on the girls who had become pregnant due to repeated rapes by the militants. Dr. Abdul Ahad Rishi was one of the famous doctors who was killed by the militants in March 92 at (Khanabal) for the same reason.

Houses of the migrant Kashmiris have been burned and plundered in thousands everywhere in the valley. Extortions from the traders, transporters, and common shopkeepers are the order of the day. The money thus collected is being utilized for maintaining lavish lifestyles and building palatial houses by the militants of all varieties. In fact, today the militancy in Kashmir is a thriving business in true mafia style. Besides, hundreds of schools and bridges and culverts have been burned, damaged, and totally destroyed by the militants throughout the length and breadth of the valley. This has reversed the course of development process in the state. Selected killings of bus passengers of a particular community in Doda District of Jammu Division early this week is yet another example of human rights violations by militants.

As opposed to the behaviour of militants and their supporters, the Army has exhibited a remarkable concern and care for the well-being and welfare of the Kashmiris. It has adopted a number of villages in the valley for developmental and community work. The Army has repaired hundreds of roads, bridges, and schools and constructed water supply schemes and playgrounds for the children. Poor students have been helped with both monetary and material aid. Thousands of Kashmiris were treated in military hospitals and medical camps. In many remote areas of the valley, the Army has given employment to youths. It has also bought local fresh produce from the farmers at remunerative prices for the troops. Moreover, a large number of injured militants have been treated in military hospitals with same care and concern as the injured soldiers. Further, when devastating floods struck Kashmir in September 92 and again in mid-July this year, it was the Indian Army that came to the immediate rescue and relief of the Kashmiris.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Chairs First Meeting of New Cabinet

LD1808182793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Excerpt] The new cabinet held its first meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. At the beginning of the session, the president welcomed the new cabinet colleagues. He also congratulated former cabinet members for attaining the vote of confidence of the people's representatives for the second time and for gaining another opportunity to serve our great and revolutionary nation. He expressed the hope that the government would leave an even better and lasting record of performance than it did in its first term in enhancing the country through the new blood [tazeh-nafas], energy, and fresh experiences that it has gained.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the importance of the common responsibility of the ministers and stated his belief that the success of a sector or organization is impossible outside the framework of government programs and without coordination with other sectors.

The president stressed the government's and ministers' obedience to the leadership and their close and direct contact with the people and their representatives and said: We are duty-bound by the shari'ah and the law to follow [peyrevi] the exalted leadership, to keep the people happy, and to heed the views of the Majles deputies.

On appointment and dismissal methods, the president called for the true enforcement of the criteria of piety, competence, and efficacy and said: In every case we must make use of revolutionary and Islamic forces, and the elimination of those who serve as tyranny against the revolution and the state.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also stressed safeguarding and reviving the spiritual and Islamic environment in departments and direct supervision of that issue by the ministers.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised the Majles and considered most of its debates to be dignified [matin]. He assessed the high vote gained by the majority of ministers to be useful for the government and its success. [passage omitted]

Velayati Returns to Tehran, Comments on Baku Visit

LD1808181293 Tehran IRNA in English 1719 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati concluded his two-day visit to Baku, capital of Azerbaijan Republic and returned to Tehran today.

In a brief interview upon arrival at Mehrabad Airport he said that in his talks with Azeri officials he assured them that the Islamic Republic is for the integrity of that republic and that it condemns any scheme in the region that should promote dismemberment of any of the regional states.

During his talks with acting President Geydar Aliyev and other state officials of that republic he declared Iran's commitment to the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan Republic.

The Iranian foreign minister voiced his concern about the current territorial aggression in Karabakh against the Republic of Azerbaijan by the Armenian Republic and said that the hostile acts by the Armenian forces should discontinue.

He observed that the countries of the region stand to benefit from peace and not from war and hostility.

During his stay in Baku Velayati also entered into a memorandum of understanding on mutual relations with the Republic of Azerbaijan in 17 points.

Larijani, Russian Envoy Discuss Armenia, Tajikistan

LD1808171493 Tehran IRNA in English 1619 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA—Urgent political measures are needed to end the Armenian invasion of Azerbaijan, Vice-Chairman of the Majles Foreign Relations Committee Mohammad Javad Larijani told Russian Ambassador Sergey M. Tretyakov, here today. Larijani underlined the importance of the settlement of the dispute through political means.

The two sides also exchanged views on the situation in Tajikistan, with Tretyakov saying that Moscow believes

that disputes between the Tajikistan Government and opposition groups should be settled at the negotiation table.

Elsewhere, he said Russia agreed with the holding of the foreign ministerial meeting of the Caspian littoral states, and termed it an important step towards promotion of regional cooperation." [no opening quotation mark as received]

The avenues for mutual cooperation particularly in exchange of parliamentary delegations were also reviewed in the meeting.

Kuwait Assembly Speaker al-Sa'dun Arrives in Tehran

LD1808111993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Following his arrival in Tehran this morning, in an interview with our reporter, Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun, speaker of the Kuwaiti national parliament, stressed the important role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in safeguarding regional security. He is in Tehran at the head of a parliamentary delegation on a three-day official visit, on the basis of an invitation by Majles speaker Nateq-Nuri.

Al-Sa'dun expressed satisfaction about making this trip. He stressed the need to further relations between Iran and Kuwait and to expand the field of bilateral cooperation in various areas, particularly inter-parliamentary cooperation. Al-Sa'dun noted that in his meetings with Iranian officials, issues that interest the two countries, including important regional issues, will be discussed.

The speaker referred to the forthcoming Riyadh summit, which will be attended by foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council member countries. He hopes that the summit will facilitate the process of resolving the existing disputes between Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

He also referred to the position adopted by Iran toward the occupation of Kuwait by Iraqi regime forces. The speaker said: I convey the pure sentiments of the people of Kuwait to the officials and the people of Iran. Indeed, we admire the position that you adopted.

In addition, Nateq-Nuri spoke with our reporter. He expressed Iran's willingness to expand its relations with its neighbors; in particular with the Islamic countries. Nateq-Nuri said that in our negotiations with the Kuwaiti speaker, we will discuss bilateral ties and issues concerning the region and the Islamic world.

Moreover, in reply to a question about the summit in Riyadh and proposals that Iran might possibly suggest, Nateq-Nuri said:

[Begin Nateq-Nuri recording] The participants can help to resolve the issue between us and the Emirates. Of

course, in my opinion, this is a minor issue. The participants must consider the geographical and regional realities. At any rate, they should adopt a decision which would be harmonious with these realities and which will safeguard the legitimate rights of the countries. By adopting such a decision they can prevent the opportunist tendencies of those who seek to create a rift between us and our neighbors. In our negotiations with the Kuwaiti delegation I will convey our proposals in a clear way. [end recording]

Meets With Nateq-Nuri

LD1808212093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun met with Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri this afternoon. In the course of this meeting, Ahmad al-Sa'dun first expressed his delight on coming to Iran. Stressing the importance of maintaining the region's security, he said: It is up to the region's countries to maintain the security of the region.

Afterwards, Nateq-Nuri said: Iran was the first state to condemn the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. Despite the fact that during the eight years of Iraqi war against Iran the Kuwaiti Government adopted a different stance against our country—under the harshest conditions when we were on the frontline—we adopted a position in favor of Kuwait and against Iraq because we were familiar with the nature of the Iraqi regime and we felt that our neighbor, at the time of Iraqi aggression against Iran, did not know about our culture, belief, and strategy. He also attributed the Islamic Republic of Iran's unconditional support for the innocent Muslims of Bosnia, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Lebanon, and Palestine to the same policy.

Referring to the coming session of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, Nateq-Nuri asked the Kuwaiti authorities at this session to adopt a stance in the interest of the region's security and to avoid sacrificing the logic of justice for tribal and Arabism factors.

The Majles speaker, referring to the poisonous propaganda of global arrogance on the arms build-up by the Islamic Republic of Iran, said: Despite coming through eight years of war and its particular geographical conditions, Iran has allocated only \$850 million to its annual defense budget. In comparison, the Saudi military budget is 20 times greater than this sum.

Referring to many common points between Iran and Kuwait in religious and geographical terms and on the importance of expanding parliamentary ties, Nateq-Nuri referred to the formation of the two countries' friendship group at the Islamic Majles and asked for the setting up of a similar group at the Kuwaiti National Assembly.

Expansion of Ties With Kuwait Advocated

LD1908130993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1058 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We draw your attention to our first political commentary for today.

The high-ranking parliamentary delegation of Kuwait, headed by Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun, parliamentary speaker of that country, today, on the second day of his visit, met and conferred with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. At the meeting, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized that the security of the Persian Gulf region should be secured by the littoral countries of the Persian Gulf. He also reiterated Iran's principled stance based on keeping this region free from the influence and rivalry of world powers. [passage omitted]

Relations between Iran and Kuwait are important in the sense that Iran and Kuwait are neighbors. The expansion of political and economic relations tops the agenda of the foreign policy of both countries. The achievement of such an objective can only be possible through meetings between the officials of the two countries and coordination between them at different levels. Also, Iran and Kuwait are both sensitive toward the fate and situation of the Persian Gulf for reasons that are geographic and political.

Iran has been consistent in calling for the independence of the Persian Gulf and keeping it free from rivalries and domination of world powers. The destructive consequences of interference by world powers in creating and spreading two destructive Persian Gulf wars in the past decade—with Iran and Kuwait as their main victims—have had the effect of constantly prompting the countries of this region, especially the two main victims of Iraqi aggression, to adopt independent policies that are compatible with the interests of the regional nations. Kuwait's membership in the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], which is made up of six southern Persian Gulf littoral countries, is another factor creating the need for Kuwait and Iran to broaden their relations.

Ever since the oil war came to an end and Iraq was weakened in every way, America has tried to limit Iran's power as the most powerful country in the region and, in this way, to create a balance of weakness in the Persian Gulf. Meetings between Iranian officials and countries of the GCC can both weaken the West's negative insinuations and can also neutralize America's plot to keep the region weak and plunder its rich oil resources. Iran and Kuwait's membership in the Organization of Oil Exporting Countries—OPEC—can be the other arena for cooperation between these two effective members of that organization in preventing the fall in oil prices and in defending the revenues of oil-producing countries. The fact that Iran overlooked Kuwait's support for Iraq during the imposed war, and Iran's adoption of a principled stance, which involved supporting the helpless

people of Kuwait when Baghdad's rulers invaded that country, has made Kuwaiti officials realize that Islamic Iran is among the few countries whose behavior is not motivated by the search for short-term interests or opportunism. Rather, it adopts its foreign policy on the basis of the interests of the Islamic ummah and those of the regional Muslim nations, within the framework of declared ethical principles. Kuwait, therefore, can always count on its relations with Tehran and endeavor to maintain and expand these relations.

Of course, if relations remain limited to the framework of good political relations that are necessary, they will not lead to the creation of a solid base on which to maintain and continue them unless they can be expanded to embrace very close economic, cultural, and popular relations. For this reason, the visit of the Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation, which is the guest of the speaker and deputies of our country's Majles, can prepare the grounds for extensive popular relations between the two nations.

Commentary: U.S. To Continue Pressure on Sudan

LD1808122993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1006 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The title of our first political commentary for today, to which we draw your attention, is "Increase in American Pressure Against Sudan."

From the start of this week, the United States increased its propaganda and political pressure against Sudan from various directions and all at the same time. It seems that with this action, Washington has decided to prepare the grounds for sanctions against Khartoum. Because the Sudanese Government has had some success in solving some of the major problems faced by that country and in playing an active role in the region and in the Arab world through the adoption of independent policies, it is only natural that it should meet with opposition from the United States. The reason for this is very clear. The White House has always prevented any statesmen in East Africa from becoming powerful if they are out of line with American policy.

U.S. opposition increased from the time when government forces were able to regain many regions from the rebels in the south and to prepare the grounds for solving this long-standing problem. [passage omitted] Pressures against Sudan under various pretexts continue, but the government of that country has demonstrated that it enjoys certain capabilities that enable it to use its initiative each time there is a new excuse to bring pressure to bear against the country and to neutralize these up to a point. Of course, in this regard, Sudan has also demonstrated that it is willing to compromise. Last week, high-ranking Sudanese officials were even prepared to talk to former

President Jimmy Carter in Khartoum and review problems related to the southern part of the country.

Interestingly, some claims have been made against Sudan that cannot be proved on the basis of any legal sources. They are merely claims and insinuations that Western mass media are trying to use to influence public opinion through their extensive propaganda.

Political observers believe that these kinds of pressures will continue as long as Sudan insists on its own independent policies that prevent foreign interference in its internal affairs.

Afghan Minister Assures Refugees of Return of Property

LD1808184693 Tehran IRNA in English 1602 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA—Afghan minister in charge of repatriation of refugees, Marjan Sahiqi [name and title as received], said here today that all Afghan refugees returning to their homeland would be entitled to their original properties and assets as they did before their flight from home.

He said any returning Afghan who should find his house occupied would be offered lodging elsewhere until it is vacated.

The Afghan Ministry for Repatriation of Refugees is in charge of the administrative and legal formalities for restoration of refugees' title to their properties and assets in Afghanistan.

Sahiqi who is in Tehran for the second tripartite conference between Iran, Afghanistan and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), appreciated the hospitality of the government and people of Iran to the Afghan refugees since 1978.

He said the humanitarian gesture by the Islamic Republic was important especially because Iran offered a haven to the Afghan refugees at a time it was involved in an unwanted war with Iraq.

During the course of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan (1978-89), over three million Afghans sought refuge in Iran, of whom 700,000 have voluntarily returned home with the good offices of the UNHCR.

The tripartite commission that concluded its last session here Tuesday [17 August] aims to facilitate continued return home of the remaining Afghan refugees in Iran in a manner consistent with their human dignity.

Haji Official Complains Saudis Denying Visas

LD1808163193 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA—The Saudi Embassy is still refusing to issue visas for Iranian pilgrims despite the agreement between the two countries, an official said here today.

Head of the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization, Mohammad Hasan Reza'i, said that based on agreements between Iran and Saudi Arabia, 3,000 pilgrims a week were expected to be sent to the holy cities for the umrah (lesser pilgrimage) between first of the lunar month of Safar (July 21) and the end of Sha'ban (February 11) annually.

He said the possibility of umrah during the fasting month of Ramadhan was also raised in a meeting this year between foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and his Saudi counterpart, Sa'ud al-Faysal but the latter deferred the issue saying the holy shrines are crowded during the said month because of pilgrims from other countries.

"As usual, pilgrim passports were sent to the Saudi this year for the umrah visas, but the embassy has returned them saying it has not received any permission in this regard," Reza'i underlined.

Reza'i who is also deputy minister of culture and Islamic guidance urged the Saudi officials to show goodwill in issuing visas for the Iranian umrah pilgrims, and said any delay concerning the issue would pose difficulties for his organization.

Pakistan

Afghanistan's Hekmatyar Concludes Visit

Joint Communique Issued

BK1908030093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Pakistan and Afghanistan have condemned the grave violations of human rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and have reaffirmed their support to the Kashmiri people's struggle for their right to self-determination. This was stated in a joint communique issued at the end of Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar's visit to Pakistan.

Pakistan and Afghanistan also agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation under the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization, and to support the goals of the Quetta Plan and the Istanbul Declaration. The two sides held detailed discussions on matters relating to bilateral cooperation, including a transit facility for trade, provision of special facilities at ports for the goods to be sent to and brought from Afghanistan, the improvement of telecommunication links, and the construction of roads and dams in Afghanistan.

The two countries expressed concern over the clashes along the Afghan-Tajik border, and said they have created a threat to peace and stability in the region. They agreed that the Tajik issue is basically an internal problem, which should be resolved through peaceful negotiations.

[Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English at 1600 GMT on 18 August carries an similar report on the joint communique, and adds:

"Both sides examined the question of return of Afghan refugees and said a tripartite agreement between Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the UNHCR [UN High Commission for Refugees] was signed to facilitate the return of Afghan refugees from Pakistan. The Afghan prime minister has now arrived in Tehran for talks with Iranian leaders."]

Newspaper Reviews Visit

BK1908051393 Islamabad *THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER* in English 18 Aug 93 p 6

[Text] Though this is Engineer Hekmatyar's first visit to Pakistan as the Prime Minister of Afghanistan, he is no stranger to us. His very assumption of the premiership of that country is the result of an accord signed in Islamabad which was backed by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Iran. That he has been able to come abroad indicates that a semblance of peace and normalcy has returned to that war-torn country. We expect the Afghan leadership to consolidate peace after the cessation of hostilities.

Mr Hekmatyar's arrival has also taken place in the backdrop of rising tension along Afghan-Tajik borders, which has led to punitive action by combined Tajik-Russian forces. Both Pakistan and Afghanistan feel that it is in their best national interests to have a negotiated settlement of the issue. Really it is Tajikistan's internal problem which has spilled over into Afghanistan due to their common borders. It is not fair on the part of Tajikistan to blame Kabul for their own failings. Incidentally no one should expect a newly installed government in a war-torn country to have its writ obeyed in all the areas of the country.

The item high on the agenda was not surprisingly, the return of Afghan refugees to their homeland. Pakistan justifiably expects millions of Afghans to return to their country after helping them during foreign occupation. Their presence has been a source of social, economic and even political strains. Due to the endemic factionalism of Afghan politics, conditions for their safe and voluntary home-coming were less than satisfactory. Now that a central government is in place, the process of repatriation must be speeded up. The success of rehabilitation, however, will depend upon, to a large extent, on the behaviour of various Mojahedin parties and their ability to maintain permanent peace and stability in the country. The Afghan Premier ought to give top priority to the business of disarmament which does not mean depriving citizen of the traditional means of self-defence, but the recall of heavy weaponry from all sides. Without rehabilitation, a national army and police force, no reconstruction can take place.

We understand that the widespread misuse of transit facilities by the smuggling syndicates of Afghanistan and Pakistan came under detailed review. We hope that

Kabul would assist Islamabad in preventing the abuse of this life-line, which has filled our Bara Markets with vast quantities of unauthorised goods, playing havoc with indigenous industry and local commercial interests.

It may be pointed out that the future and prosperity of the two countries is dependent on each other. We are sure this visit will prove beneficial for both and would give depth and durability to their relations.

Qureshi Stresses Resolution of Kashmir Issue

BK1808121493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] The acting president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, has said normal relations cannot be established between Pakistan and India until the resolution of the Kashmir dispute, as it is the core issue between the two countries. He said resolution of this issue is also essential to ensure peace and stability in South Asia. He was addressing members of the cabinet and heads of various political parties of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and a delegation of refugees from occupied Kashmir in Muzaffarabad today. The acting president said the only way to resolve the Kashmir issue was to give the people of Kashmir their right of self-determination in accordance with the UN resolution. He said Pakistan would continue to extend political, moral, and diplomatic support to the indigenous struggle of the people of occupied Kashmir. It would also continue its efforts to awaken the world conscience against atrocities and violation of human rights by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir.

Earlier, he held a meeting with the president and the prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. He also met members of the Azad Kashmir cabinet. Matters relating to the development of Azad Kashmir came under discussion.

Government Withdraws 18 Billion Rupees From Circulation

BK1808055793 Peshawar *THE FRONTIER POST* in English 17 Aug 93 p 1

[By Qaiser Butt]

[Text] The caretaker federal government has decided to take a drastic move of withdrawing Rs. [Rupees] 18 billion in circulation countrywide. To partly support the worsening economic conditions and overcome the fiscal crisis. Highly placed sources said.

This crisis has been posed to Pakistan by the government's inability to meet the pledge it made to the IMF and World Bank of deficit financing. This pledge was made at the time of 1993-94 federal budget and for this purpose, this financing had been raised from the original 20 billion dollars to 23 billion dollars during the first month (July) of the current fiscal year.

Besides, the federal government had promised to the international loan-awarding organisations that it would

make a payment of 1,000 million dollars in connection with debt servicing in October. But, there is no money at hand to make this huge payment. An amount of this quantum could be piled up neither from foreign exchange nor from local currency deposits.

To make sure that the withdrawal of money from circulation proves an initiative of positive results, the federal government has planned to generate from this money-suction an amount of Rs. 11 billion while the governments of Sindh and the Punjab have been asked to remit rupees 10 billion each, which they had obtained in overdrafts from the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Balochistan government has also been told to refund the overdrawn money worth Rs. 500 million from the SEP [expansion unknown].

The causes for this drastic move have been pointed out to be the mismanagement of economic structure by recent political governments, particularly that of Nawaz Sharif, which led to a threat to the already tottering economy. The national exchequer has been rendered impotent of easing out of the pressures of debt servicing.

Considers Further Devaluation

BK1808062993 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 17 Aug 93 p 8

[By Saeed Minhas]

[Text] Lahore—Following the instructions of the World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) the caretaker government is seriously considering to further devalue rupee by at least ten per cent by the end of the current month.

The federal government has issued instructions to the provincial government to freeze the foreign exchange reserves and to report back possible affects of such move on their debts.

It is worth mentioning that since July 12 the Pakistani currency has declined by 9.2 per cent against the US dollar. The expected devaluation is likely to be made to increase exports and remain competitive in the international market by producing the best quality products at minimum possible price.

It is learnt that the caretaker prime minister, Moin Qureshi had invited Ms. Bhutto to Islamabad a day before the national day function to discuss some important economic issues.

The sources did not confirm the reaction of Ms Bhutto but were of the view that the former prime minister has agreed with the caretaker prime minister to pursue tough economic management decisions if necessary. The caretaker government is believed to have contacted PML [Pakistani Muslim League] leaders as well.

The provincial governments have also been asked to submit the details of the foreign exchange reserves to the federal government within a week.

Furthermore, the provincial governments have been asked to put up a summary as to how additional devaluation will affect their internal and external debts and loans extended to the autonomous and defunct local bodies.

Economists in the federal capital confirmed the reports that a further devaluation would take place on the recommendation of the WB and IMF, as both the monetary organisations still feel that Pakistani rupee needs to be further devalued.

A recent increase of five paisa over every 300 electricity units by WAPDA [Water and Power Development Authority] is just another indication of the extent of pressure that can be exerted by the donor organisations.

It is learnt that these monetary organisations have also pressurised the caretaker government too withdraw subsidies to all sectors including the agriculture sector.

The imposition of agri-tax on the feudal landholders by the end of current month is also expected.

In this context the subsidy on electricity rates charged to the tubewell operators, in rural areas is likely to be withdrawn which may adversely affect the small farmers in the Punjab. The withdrawal of such a subsidy will result in enhanced production costs of small farmers and affect the agriculture sector at large.

Meanwhile, the IMF and WB have refused to give any direct loans to Pakistan, unless the government ascertains its hidden assets. Both the organisations have informed the government to mobilise its own resources and then apply for matching grants only. The whole operation needs to be finalised by the end of September, 1993.

The economists are of the view that by suggesting such terms and conditions, World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) are planning to completely take over the country's economy by the end of the first half of the current fiscal year.

Since the IMF and WB teams have recently concluded their talks with the government in Islamabad, wild speculations have already gripped the currency markets, both spot and forward, in Pakistan.

As a result, the dollar bills circulation has eventually dried up from the open market and huge transactions have taken place from rupee to dollar during the past one week.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Renews Compromise Offer To End Separatist War

BK1808060493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0533 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Colombo, Aug 18 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil Tiger guerrillas Wednesday [18 August] renewed an offer to compromise on their key demand for a separate state and settle for a federal formula to end the dragging separatist war.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in a statement from its London office, accused Colombo of taking the cover of a parliamentary select committee to avoid direct talks with them to resolve the ethnic conflict.

"The leader of the LTTE, Velupillai Prabhakaran, has declared that the LTTE was prepared to consider a federal structure with the North East forming the Tamil Homeland.

"If the government of Sri Lanka persists in its determination to subjugate the Tamil people, the Tamils have no alternative but to continue to fight to restore their own sovereign state," the statement said.

Prabhakaran, 38, told the BBC in February that he was willing to compromise on [words indistinct] an independent state and he would consider a federal form of government [words indistinct] on hint to end the ethnic bloodshed which has claimed thousands of lives.

"If a federal set-up proposal which gives autonomy and satisfies the expectations of the Tamil people is put forward, we are prepared to consider it," Prabhakaran has said.

The LTTE had demanded a separate state called Eelam consisting of about one third of the land area of Sri Lanka in the island's northeast where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated.

The latest statement from the LTTE came less than a week after the government formally rejected a peace initiative by four Nobel prize winners proposing United Nations intervention in the Sri Lankan crisis.

The three-page statement sought to reject the position taken last week by the Sri Lankan delegation at the U.N. sub commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

The statement accused the government of using the ongoing parliamentary select committee as a "cover of reasonableness for international consumption, whilst it continues its genocidal military operations against Tamil people."

The LTTE conducted 14 months of direct peace talks with Colombo but the negotiations failed in June 1990 leading to renewed fighting between the Tigers and troops. Both political and military efforts so far have ended in failure.